

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1888.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1853.

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BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN Daily from Ten till Five. Admission 1s. GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY of BRITISH ARTISTS, INCORPORATED by ROYAL CHARTER.—The THIRTIETH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society WILL OPEN on MONDAY the 28th inst. Admission, 1s. ALFRED CLINT, Honorary Secretary. Suffolk Street, Paul Mall East.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION of FINE ARTS, Portland Gallery, 316, Regent Street, opposite the Royal Polytechnic Institution. This Exhibition of Modern Pictures is now OPEN daily from Nine till dusk. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogue, Sixpence. BELL SMITH, Secretary.

ART UNION of LONDON.—(By Royal Charter.) The Subscription Lists will close Thursday next, 31st inst. Specimens of the Two Prints to be given to every subscriber may be seen at the Office, viz., "THE SURRENDER of CALAIS," a work of national and historical interest, by E. Robinson, after H. C. Selous; and "CHRIST LED TO CRUCIFIXION," in the above Two Prints each purchaser will be entitled to select for himself a Work of Art from one of the Public Exhibitions. GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary
LEWIS COCK, } Secretaries.
444, West Strand, March, 1853.

DURING EASTER WEEK the MUSEUM of ORNAMENTAL MANUFACTURES, including Specimens from the Royal and other Collections, will be OPEN daily from 10 till 5 p.m. Catalogues, each. Marlborough House, Pall Mall.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.
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EARLY NOTICE will be given of the OPENING of the PHOTOGRAPHIC SCHOOL.

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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY of LONDON.—Notice is hereby given that the EXHIBITIONS of FLOWERS and FRUIT, in the SOCIETY'S GARDEN, in the present season, will take place on the following SATURDAYS—viz. May 11, June 11, and July 9; and that TUESDAY, April 26, is the last day on which the usual privileged Tickets are issued to Fellows of the Society.

MR. H. BLAGROVE'S VIOLIN SOIREE'S, to take place at 71, Mortimer Street, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 30, April 27, May 25, and June 29, at 8 o'clock, will include Selections from the Works of the great Violin Composers, some Classical Concerted Music, with eminent Vocal and instrumental talent.—Particulars to be had of Mr. H. Blagrove, 15, Alfred Place, Bedford Square; at the Rooms, and principal Music shops.

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Patron—His Royal Highness PRINCE ALBERT, K.G. The Nobility, Friends, and Subscribers, are respectfully informed that the THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER will take place in FREEMASONS' HALL, on SATURDAY, April 16th, when the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE will take the chair. W. J. ROPER, Assistant Secretary.

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MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEBY AND JOHN WILKINSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property and Works illustrative of the Fine Arts, will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington Street, Strand, on THURSDAY, March 31, and two following days, at ONE o'clock each day, a very interesting COLLECTION of AUTOGRAPH LETTERS; comprising the correspondence of Lord Nelson, consisting of about 300 letters to Lady Hamilton, during the period of the French war, including the last written by him before his death, dated on board the Victory, October 19 and 20, 1805; letters from distinguished naval officers and illustrious persons to Lord Nelson; the correspondence of the Queen of Naples with Lady Hamilton, containing about 300 letters, written during the war, and detailing much interesting historical matter, historical documents; to which is added, the very magnificent porcelain service presented by the ladies of England to Lord Nelson. May be viewed two days prior, and catalogues had at the place of sale; or in the country on receipt of six postage stamps.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1853.

REVIEWS.

Lares and Penates: or, Cilicia and its Governors. By William Burekhardt Barker, M.R.A.S. Edited by William Francis Ainsworth, F.G.S. Ingram, Cooke, & Co. From a perusal of this work, which has been sent to us by the author, we would fain hope that the inferior compilations and translations, begun to be issued by Messrs. Ingram, Cooke, and Co. in their 'Illustrated Library,' have given place to something of more substantial worth. Our attention having been called last year to three works of very equivocal merit, at the time of the public discussion on the book-trade, we felt bound, agreeably with the part taken by us in that discussion, to warn our readers against being led away by the cheapness of these productions; and vehemently to denounce the plan of the 'National Illustrated Library' as a system of book-making, unworthy of the times, and calculated to be of serious injury to the sound advancement of literature. What works have since been published by Messrs. Ingram, Cooke, and Co. we know not; and we have thought it right, therefore, to state thus much, lest the circumstances under which the interesting volume before us has appeared may be in any way prejudicial to the author's credit.

Few regions of the world are so rich in great and varied historical associations as the province of Cilicia. Of its early civilization and power both sacred and heathen records testify. According to the fables of pagan tradition Tarsus was built by Perseus, the son of Jupiter by Danaë, and Scripture writers show that the sons of Tarshish (second in descent from Noah) were settled on this coast, and were celebrated for their navigation and commerce. So famous were its merchants, that the "ships of Tarshish" came to be a common appellation for all vessels of trade; and the name given by Isaiah to Tyre, "the daughter of Tarshish," would lead to the conclusion that a Cilician colony had settled on the Syrian coast, and laid the foundation for Phœnician grandeur and fame. Certain it is that the name of the Cilician Tarshish was in late ages found in remote places, as in Ophir or Arabia, and at the mouth of the Betis in Spain, as if the Phœnician traders would perpetuate the name of the mother city whence the maritime colonies of the Great Sea had sprung. In the days of King David, B.C. 1055, the navy of Tarshish was renowned (Psalm xlviii.) In later times, Cilicia, from its position as connecting the Eastern and Western worlds, was visited by people of every nation, and often became the scene of strife between contending empires. The valleys and defiles lying between the mountain ridges and lofty table land of Asia Minor and the shores of the Mediterranean, formed the passages to or from the East. Through these passes Cyrus, whose army included the famous ten thousand Greeks, went up from Lydia on his expedition against Artaxerxes. When Alexander the Great was advancing into Asia after the battle of the Granicus, he was amazed and delighted to find the passes of Tarsus, the Cilician gates (*Pyle Cilicia*), undefended, as a handful of troops could have there kept back his whole army. But the Persians had fled in panic, and the Cilicians were glad to hail the conqueror and to throw off the Persian yoke.

Alexander marched to Tarsus, where he arrived just in time to save it from destruction, as the Persians had set fire to the city to prevent his becoming master of its treasures.

Of the subsequent governors of Cilicia, during the wars of the generals of Alexander and their successors, down to the time when it was reduced by the Romans under Pompey, Mr. Barker gives an account in the early chapters of his volume. After being subject to various conquerors, Cilicia remained for a time under the rule of the Seleucidæ. For a short period the Egyptian kings regained power over the country, till the reign of Antiochus the Great:—

"Ptolemy Evergetes, the third of that name king of Egypt, invaded Syria and Cilicia (B.C. 245), and wrested the government from Antiochus Theos, grandson of Seleucus, in revenge for the ill-treatment of Berenice his sister, whom he had married; and this country remained tributary to the Egyptian dynasty during the reigns of the two succeeding kings of Syria, Seleucus Callinicus and Seleucus Ceraenios. Antiochus, surnamed the Great, their successor (in the year B.C. 233), not only re-established the power of the Seleucidæ in Syria and Cilicia, but also colonised the whole coast of Asia Minor (of doubtful fidelity) with Jews from Babylon and Palestine, from whom were descended the multitudes of Israelites scattered through those regions at the first preaching of the gospel, and among whom none more illustrious than the Apostle of the Gentiles; and thus Antiochus was an instrument in the hand of divine Providence in laying the foundation of the Seven Churches which take so prominent a part in the history of early Christianity."

After this followed the wars of Mithridates, king of Pontus, and Tigranes, king of Armenia, against the Romans. During the Punic wars the seas had been infested by Cilician pirates, who had usually sided with the Carthaginians. Pompey was sent against them with a fleet of five hundred ships and a hundred and twenty thousand men, and after a war of three months, by sea and land, the country was reduced to submission. Pompey rebuilt the ancient city of Soli, which was then called Pompeiopolis. Cicero was proconsul of the province B.C. 50. The meeting of Marc Anthony and Cleopatra at Tarsus is a well-known event in history, and has been immortalized by Shakspeare. At the battle of Actium, Tarchondemus, king of Cilicia, fought with Anthony against Augustus. Under Augustus and the early Roman emperors Tarsus became as famous for learning and philosophy as it had formerly been for maritime enterprise and commerce:—

"Tarsus had now become the rival of Athens and Alexandria; numerous schools were established there, and numbers flocked from all quarters to profit by the lessons of the philosophers, and to study the liberal arts and sciences. But in the numbers of the learned who have, by the lustre of their reputation, reflected a glory over Tarsus as having been the place of their nativity, St. Paul is the most illustrious. Born of a good family of the sect of the Pharisees, he was early led to study eloquence and rhetoric, and thus laid a foundation for the taste and elegance which distinguish his writings. Initiated into the arts of Grecian disputation, he was well able to perform the difficult task of refuting the sophistry of the numerous sects, and to aid in the extension of the true doctrines he was chosen to preach; while being enrolled a free citizen of Rome, he became thereby a fit instrument in the hands of Providence, from the respectability attached to that title. St. Paul chose Cilicia as the first scene of his labours, being anxious that his townsmen and kinsfolk should be the first to hear the glad tidings he had to announce; and for several years we find him making

this province of Asia Minor the field he loved most to toil in."

The remaining portion of the story of 'Cilicia and its Governors' is indicated in the following extract from Mr. Ainsworth's editorial remarks. The editor gives a masterly sketch of the natural as well as political history of the country, concluding with a remark with which all who read Mr. Barker's book will sympathize:—

"Its remarkable configuration and physical features, its mountains, forests, and wild animals, its natural resources and produce, its history and vicissitudes, its associations and existing monuments, its prostrate and oppressed population, and above all its commercial capabilities, and its claims upon the sympathy of a wide-embracing humanity, entitle it as a country to a moment's attention, and as a population of various origin and creeds, to a thought of kindness from English readers."

The outline of Cilician history after its Roman period is thus given by Mr. Ainsworth:—

"Even the short-lived powers of Zenobia affected Cilicia; and in the long struggle for domination that took place between the Emperor of Byzantium and the Sassanian Kings, Cilicia still continued to be the field of oft-repeated and sanguinary conflicts. This was still more the case upon the rise of Muhammadanism; and in the times of the early kalifs, when the population of the country appears to have attained its maximum, its soil was more than ever stained by the blood of victims to men's lust for power and dominion. The Saracens were succeeded by Turkman races, which have ever since held most tenaciously by a country which they have found peculiarly adapted to their habits and mode of life. Three times the Christians of the West, as they were rising into power upon the past civilisation of Greece and Rome, advanced to battle for the empire of the Cross through Cilicia; and fatal experience ultimately taught them to take other routes. For a time, as under the wily Alexius or the less fortunate John Comnenus, Cilicia was once more a Greek province: but the dread power of the Osmanlis was already on the ascendancy; and with the exception of the temporary sway of the Mamluks, and of the devastating inroads of a Janghiz Khan or a Timur-lang, which were as evanescent as they were sweeping, and of a brief Egyptian domination in the time of Ibrahim Pasha, Cilicia has ever since remained under the control of the Osmanlis, or of their more or less dependent vassals, the Turkman chieftains of the country.

"The peculiar position of this sea-and-mountain-girt province has always influenced the character of the inhabitants. The father of history tells us that the Cilicians were among the few nations in Lesser Asia whom Croesus could not bring into subjection. Mr. Barker notices the bad character for piracy and unfaithfulness that Artemisia, queen of Halicarnassus, gave of the Cilicians; so familiar indeed were these features in the character of these isolated people of antiquity, that *Cilix haud facile verum dicit* became a proverbial saying. From the same mountains where Cicero found the 'wicked and audacious Tiberani,' and where dwelt the rebel Clitæans, Armenians (not always very warlike in other countries) descended to ravage the plains or harass the Crusaders; and what is more curious, as showing the persistency of character among tribes similarly situated, the Aushir and Kusan Uglu tribes of Turkmans, scarcely subjected by Ibrahim Pasha, are in the present day merely nominal vassals of the Sultan.

"A curious feature also belongs to Cilicia, which is its fatality to crowned heads. It is doubtful if Sardanapalus, notwithstanding certain not very authentic statements to the contrary, did not die in this province; the river Cydnus, which had nearly proved fatal to Alexander, was certainly so, nearly a thousand years afterwards, to the Emperor Frederic, surnamed Barbarossa; Seleucus VI. was burned to death in a palace at Mopsuestia; Labienus and Vonones were slain in the same pro-

vince; Pescenius Niger was killed on the ever-memorable battle-field of Issus; Trajan died at Selinus; Florianus was killed by his troops at Tarsus; Maximianus died in agonies at the same city; Constantius perished at Mopsuestia, and Julian the Apostate was buried at Tarsus; the best and wisest of the Khalifs, Almaamun, died in Cilicia; and the pride of the Comneni, Kalo Joannes, lost his life in a boar-hunt at Anazarba. Three times the fate of the world was decided on the plain of Issus. First, when the Greeks and Persians met there; secondly, when Severus and Pescenius Niger engaged there in a life-struggle for dominion; and thirdly when Heraclius and Chosroes contested there for the superiority of the West over the East. There also, in the time of Bayazid II., the Osmanlis contested with the Mamluk dynasty of Syria the empire of the East. Yet in the present day it is difficult to determine, in a truly positive manner, the exact site of this famous battle-field, to which so melancholy and so sad an interest attaches itself.

"The modern history of this remarkable country, as detailed by Mr. Barker, possesses all the interest of a romance. It could scarcely be imagined that, within almost our own times, the high-road between the East and the West was held almost independent during the whole lifetime of one bandit-chief, Kuchuk Ali Uglu, and during a portion of that of his son, both of whom levied tribute on all wayfarers, imprisoned or murdered inoffensive travellers, and committed all kinds of excesses, even to capturing English and French merchantmen and imprisoning a Dutch Consul, without any effective interference having taken place on the part of Europe or the Turkish government! Happily those days are gone by,—it is to be hoped for ever. The history of the five pashas who succeeded to the Egyptians is replete with curious matter, highly instructive to those who wish to be truly informed as to the mode of administration in Turkish provinces. The commercial details, more complete and satisfactory than any hitherto presented to the public, will also prove interesting to a large community."

The particular subject to which the title of Mr. Barker's book, 'Lares and Penates,' owes its origin, will to many readers eclipse all other historical associations connected with Cilicia. Mr. Barker, whose family has been connected with these regions for above half a century, his father, Mr. John Barker, having been consul at Aleppo and in Egypt from 1799 till 1834, and afterwards living at Antioch, where he died in 1850. Mr. William Burckhardt Barker while residing at Tarsus in an official capacity discovered a quantity of terra-cottas, the description of which he here gives, representing them as "the household gods of the ancient Cilicians, broken up by them on their conversion to Christianity."

We will allow Mr. Barker to give his own account of the discovery,—

"During a residence of eight years in Cilicia, I was, in the year 1845, at different intervals, presented with one or two of these terra-cotta heads by an Armenian, who passed a great part of the day rummaging among old ruins, which is frequently the case with lazy fellows who pass for moral men or 'saints' of the modern eastern population, and who have an ulterior object besides that of seclusion: the desire of discovering hidden treasures, or of imposing on the credulity of their countrymen, by pretending to supernatural knowledge in the secret of finding the same. I had in vain questioned him regarding the place where he had found these objects. He had naturally an interest in avoiding to satisfy my curiosity, as I paid him handsomely for every thing he brought me; and he pretended that he used to write magical words on pieces of paper, which he would throw up in the air, and then he would dig in those places whereon they fell! Such is the kind of nonsense which he no doubt endeavoured to impose on his credulous neighbours.

"One day a friend observed the Armenian

scratching the earth on the slope of a hill at no great distance from my residence. He suspected what the man was looking for, and on informing me of the circumstance, I proceeded to the spot, where I discovered the rich mine from which I have drawn the whole of my collection. Having set workmen to clear away the rubbish, I collected all I could get, and these are the objects of which I now offer sketches to the public. These drawings I have taken care should be done as correctly as possible; yet such is the artistic merit of the originals, that no one can do them sufficient justice. Still I have endeavoured to give such an accurate delineation of these objects as shall bear the closest critical inspection. On the ancient wall of Tarsus a hill leaned (if I may be allowed the expression), which must have been many centuries there, inasmuch as on its summit, and towards its base, there exists a fabric, the foundations of which are of Roman cement, which was used for the interior of walls, and which, petrifying, becomes a conglomeration of mortar, sand, and pebbles, of different sizes, and harder to break up than the rock itself. The inhabitants of the present town do not trouble themselves to go to the mountains to cut thence the stone they may require for their buildings; they prefer using such as those who lived in the same spot before have left them; and they carry away, wherever they find them, all the large square stones they require. After using up all that they could find on the surface of the ground, they dug up the foundation of the old city of Tarsus. This foundation is now as low down as forty feet under ground, such being the speed with which alluvial deposits accumulate in a country so near to the high ridges of the Taurus, and in a city on which several towns have been built in succession. In the course of time the wall on which the hill leaned was thus carried away stone by stone, and a *seant* of the hill left exposed to view. In the centre of this *seant* it was that I first discovered these precious objects; and by beating the earth down the hill, I had it well examined, and carried off, as I imagined, every thing worthy of notice, until no more objects were exposed to view by working in the hill. The curiosity excited by this discovery was naturally great, and it was impossible to prevent the inhabitants from crowding to the spot. They were all much pleased with the lamps found among the rubbish, all of which were more or less perfect, and in a state ready for use; these I could not prevent them carrying off: but as they took no interest in any thing else (heads being perfectly useless to them), and as they were aware that I would have purchased all that were presented to me, I have every reason to believe that nothing of any consequence escaped me except these lamps, of which, however, I secured a great many, rejecting such as were of common workmanship, or devoid of interest, from their having no *basso relievo* or inscription to recommend them to notice. It was thus that I obtained this unique collection of ancient Ceramic art."

At first Mr. Barker supposed that he had lighted upon the site of a Ceramicus, or potter's field, and that the mound might have been formed of the waste of a manufactory, or what in the potteries of this country is called 'sherdwreck.' But on the specimens being brought home, and submitted to the inspection of Mr. Leonard J. Abington, of Hanley Potteries, Sheffield, that gentleman suggested that these relics were the household gods of the ancient Cilicians. The grounds of this opinion are given at considerable length, and have weight as coming from one who could speak artistically and professionally, as well as scientifically, on the subject. Mr. Abington points out that none of the articles seem to have been rejected by the manufacturer on account of deficient workmanship, but have been in use, and subsequently broken, either by design or accident. The adhesion of mortar or cement by which the images had been fixed upon their stiles, and the traces of paint-

ing, prove that they had been sent out finished by the manufacturer. Some of the articles, as incense burners and lamps, have evidently been much in use, and the symbols upon them indicate their employment in religious service. From the number and variety of the remains accumulated in one place, the probability is that they were purposely destroyed, and Mr. Barker offers the opinion that it was at the time of the general reception of the Christian faith. The suggestion is ingenious, and in our opinion highly probable. A parallel instance has been witnessed even in our own times, as described in Williams's 'Narrative of Missionary Enterprise in the South Seas,' when the inhabitants of Otaheite, on embracing Christianity, made a public demolition of the idols which they and their ancestors had worshipped:—

"This question now meets us, Was this casting away of idols the act of private individuals, clearing their habitations of these abominations, at the risk of persecution from the authorities, and burying them outside the gates? or was it a general cleansing of the city by the force of public opinion, such as is described in Acts xix. 18-20? In either case we find here accumulated every variety of idol, including the compound worship (which had been carried on for years) of Assyrian, Egyptian, Syrian, Grecian, and Roman mythology,—this combination no doubt arising from the local position of Tarsus and its commercial connexions; and if some person competent to the study would take up the subject, I feel persuaded that much might be elucidated of further interest to the archaeologist and to the divine, which would bring us to the firm persuasion, that their being purposely mutilated and thrown away was to be attributed to the influence of apostolic missionaries of the Christian faith in the first century of our Lord."

The great variety of the figures proves how comprehensive was the religious faith of the Cilicians, and how miscellaneous was their idolatrous worship. Among the images are those of Jupiter, Juno, Apollo, Diana, Venus, Minerva, Mercury, and the other gods and goddesses of classic mythology, Hercules, Bacchus, Adonis, Pan, and other minor deities and demi-gods, Isis, Horus, Apis, Anubis (the Egyptian Mercury), Phre (the Egyptian Sun), and a multitude of others:—

"The religious system, therefore, prevailing at Tarsus must have been a compound of all the creeds existing at that epoch. Such a combination was perhaps common to the cities of Asia Minor; but was more likely to be found at Tarsus, it being a place of resort from all the surrounding countries, on account of its schools, as well as of its commerce. It has been before remarked, that there has never been presented to the world so striking a proof of the easy, plastic character of the old mythology as we find in this precious collection of antiquities. Unlike Christianity, which treads alone in all the rigid inflexibility of eternal truth, and will not amalgamate with any thing earthly or of man's device, we find ready adoption of any thing or every thing likely to fascinate the people, and to bring traffic to the temples."

The Cilicians seem thus to have retained the mythological traditions and rites of the various nations by whom they were surrounded, or by whom they were successively conquered. A large part of Mr. Barker's work is occupied with detailed descriptions of these images, of which illustrations are given. Among the miscellaneous relics there are some strange effigies of Eastern magi, of cretins and idiots, who were often worshipped in Pagan countries, of bards, and also of animals of different kinds. Other relics give valuable illustrations of the domestic life and manners of the ancient Cilicians. Many of

the vases, drinking vessels, lamps, and pieces of household furniture, indicate a highly refined condition of art and taste. A chapter is devoted to the description of the musical instruments, some of which are remarkable specimens, and supply important facts to the history of ancient music. One fragment was found of an instrument combining the common reeds of Pan with an air-chest, a link connecting the organ with the Pandean syrinx. Some of the discoveries will be deemed important by ethnologists. One head, considered by Mr. Abington "the most extraordinary thing in the collection," has a profile exactly identical with the figures sculptured upon the monuments and edifices of extinct nations in Central America, as represented by Humboldt, and by Stephens in his 'Incidents of Travel in Central America and Yucatan.' Humboldt says on this subject, "In looking at Peruvian carvings, I have never remarked any figures of the large-nosed race of men so frequently represented in the bas-reliefs of Palenque in Guatemala, and in the Aztec paintings. Klaproth remembered having seen individuals with similar noses among the Chalcas, a northern Mongol tribe. It is well known that many tribes of the North American red or copper-coloured Indians have fine aquiline noses, and that this is an essential physiognomic distinction between them and the present inhabitants of Mexico, New Granada, Quito, and Peru. Are the large-eyed, comparatively fair-complexioned people spoken of by Marchand as having been seen in 54° and 58° latitude on the north-west coast of America, descended from an Alano-Gothic race, the Usüni of the interior of Asia?" On this question of Humboldt there are some pertinent comments in connexion with the Mongol, or Asiatic Hun face found at Tarsus.

Mr. Barker's notices of the comparative geography, the climate, natural history, and the customs and manners of Cilicia in modern times are of equal interest, though of a different kind from that which the antiquarian part of this volume presents. The country is of great fertility, and abounds with all kinds of game, and, as may be expected in a thinly-populated region, with beasts of prey:—

"Hyenas, wolves, and jackals abound, and prowl about at night in search of carrion. I have heard the hyenas howling within a few yards of me, when I have slept on the sands of the sea-shore, where we would light a fire to keep off the innumerable mosquitos that infest the coast. The people plant the stems of four fir-trees, and form a kind of table on the top with branches and leaves; here they climb to the height of twenty to thirty feet, and endeavour to sleep in the air out of the reach of this plague, the most irritating of all insects, and which is believed to have a peculiar relish for a stranger's blood. The jackals frequent the marshes; they are very numerous and noisy, but are so thick-skinned that it is a difficult matter to kill one with a club. I have had to do this with one that had been attacked by my dogs, and I can speak from experience as to their toughness; if a cat has nine lives, the jackal may be said to have nine times nine! There are two kinds of foxes; the one large and grey, the other small and brown. These, as well as the jackals, appear to have a fine scent, and they hunt for themselves, destroying a great deal of game, which is, however, very abundant in spite of their depredations. A friend of mine assured me that some years previous to my coming to Tarsus he had been out shooting, and had first counted a hundred francolins (a kind of pheasant), which he put up in the course of an hour and a half, after which he desisted from

counting any more. There is but one kind of hare in Cilicia, the large heavy hare. It is of a darker colour than the desert hare, found to the east of Syria. This latter kind is very small, and will often beat the greyhounds in a straight line, without their being able to turn her once. A gentleman of veracity residing at Aleppo related to me an incident having reference to the hare of the desert which I may be allowed to repeat here. He was out coursing on the desert side of the city; and, strange to say, the strength of the hare, dogs, hawk, and horses was so perfectly matched, that after a long chase they all came to a full stop. First the hare came to a stand; then the dogs, out of breath, a few paces behind; next the horses of the sportsmen brought to a perfect stand-still; and lastly, the hawk resting on a stone close by quite exhausted! The gentleman's servant dismounted and took up the hare in his hands."

Mr. Ainsworth, who has travelled in the country, speaks of the multitudes of gazelles that browse on the plains. "The large bustard abounds, and the smaller bustard is seen at certain seasons soaring in flocks of myriads. Wherever there is cover, the beautiful francolin, the prototype of our pheasant, abounds. The marshes teem with wild fowl. The sea swarms with fish, which may often be seen parading its depths from over the ship's side. Turtles are so numerous that hundreds may be taken in a day. This is truly a country as favoured by nature as it is neglected by man." Descriptions like these will doubtless tempt many travellers to visit such a region. For those who must be satisfied with reading the accounts of distant countries Mr. Barker's book will afford instruction and pleasure. It is a work which has interest alike for the naturalist and for the politician, for the classical scholar and for the Biblical student.

Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Herald, during the Years 1845-51, under the Command of Captain Henry Kellett, R.N., C.B. By Berthold Seemann. Reeve and Co.

THE surveying voyages of British navigators are always sufficiently prolific in discoveries to furnish solid matter for standard volumes, and not unfrequently combine with hard work a sufficient amount of adventure and risk to render the narrative of them interesting. Famous as our navy is for its exploits in war, it is equally famous for its services in the cause of peace and knowledge. The fruits of the labours of a well-conducted surveying expedition are of more value to the world than a thousand brilliant sea-fights. The glory of battles astonishes and delights the vulgar, but as men advance intellectually, they honour in preference the conquests of peace. The hero will always be remembered if he be of the foremost of warriors, but his fame is brief if he be but second in the race for glory, however loudly his praises may have been sounded at the moment of his martial deeds. A Nelson will always stand out vividly in the memory of his countrymen and his foes, but your inferior commanders are forgotten, or chronicled in prosy records, seldom read. Not so with explorers. Whilst Cook will stand conspicuously on a pedestal beside Nelson, many a hardy and intelligent navigator will be borne in mind besides Cook. The names of discoverers are linked with the onward march of civilization, and they will be household words in regions that sooner or later will play a part in the world's development. One of the truest sources of British pride is the lion's share our navy has had in

oceanic discovery. The officer who affects to slight the surveying service has but a mean appreciation of the true dignity of his profession, and the Admiralty Board which would cripple the resources and impede the progress of this valuable department, must be singularly deficient in foresight, as well as in enlightened patriotism. Fortunately a wiser spirit may be expected to sway the counsels of those upon whom the advancement of this branch of national honour depends.

The conductor of the voyage, of which the narrative is before us, is at present amid the Arctic seas, seeking for Sir John Franklin and his brave companions. Captain Henry Kellett—we may speak out in his praise whilst he is absent—is a thorough specimen of a brave and enlightened British seaman. Throughout the expedition which he commanded, and which lasted for six years, he never ceased to promote the cause of science, and was rewarded with abundant fruits. Fully appreciating the value of natural history researches, he did all that lay in his power, and his brother-officers followed his example, to aid in furthering the work of the professional naturalists by whom he was accompanied. Ample collections were made, accounts of which are now in course of publication in a separate work. Captain Wood, who commanded the *Pandora*, the consort of the *Herald* during the first part of her labours, equally did his utmost to contribute to the stores of science.

Captain Kellett, on leaving England, was accompanied by a promising and talented naturalist, Mr. Thomas Edmonston, who, though but a youth, had already given good earnest of his powers and love for science in a 'Flora of the Zetland Isles,' his native country, and in several papers on various botanical and zoological subjects. We remember well the zeal and delight with which this young genius—for such he assuredly was—entered upon a mission so suitable to his talents and tastes, and so likely to prove prolific in discovery. Alas! all these hopes and anticipations were fated to be destroyed. Mr. Edmonston met with an early and awfully sudden death. He was shot by accident when returning from his work, whilst the *Herald* was anchored off the river Sua in the Bay of Atacamas. We could have wished that more use had been made in these volumes of his letters, notes, and journals, since the notices of the earlier labours of the expedition, before Mr. Seemann joined it as successor to Mr. Edmonston, are scanty. Mr. Seemann has, however, done his own share of the work well, and described all that he witnessed with great clearness and vivacity. He was appointed naturalist to the expedition at the suggestion, we believe, of Sir William Hooker, a strong recommendation, for experience has shown that the nominees of the illustrious botanist of Kew have always proved to be men thoroughly qualified for their office.

The first part of the narrative is occupied by an account of the voyage out, and of the Pacific coasts of America, both north and south, with the Isthmus of Darien surveyed by the expedition. It contains many interesting notices of the scenery and productions of the shores of the Pacific Ocean. On several occasions Mr. Seemann made excursions into the interior, and visited tracts of the country seldom explored by travellers. A journey of peculiar interest was that from Payta across the Peruvian desert, and on through the republic of Ecuador to Guayaquil. The follow-

ing trace of ancient Peruvian customs is worthy of notice:—

"We were forced to remain a day at Sasaranga, our Peruvian muleteers having left us, and fresh animals not having been caught. The mode of travelling in Ecuador is peculiar. On the principal roads, at every six or eight leagues, there are *tambos*—buildings for the reception of travellers; at each of them a *tamboro*, or innkeeper, is stationed, who is appointed by government, and whose duty is to assist in loading and unloading, to fetch fuel, water, and provisions, and procure animals for the journey, and a cook,—for his trouble he receives one real a day from each party, and the cook half a real. The price for each animal, whether horse or mule, is four reals from one *tambo* to another. While in Ecuador we always availed ourselves of this institution, and, although in many places great disorder and slowness prevails, it proved on the whole highly advantageous. The *tambos* originated in the time of the Incas; they were the post-stages where the royal messengers met and delivered to each other the mysterious *quipos*. The communication was at that time so well kept up, that the kings, at their table at Cuzco, had fish fresh from the sea daily. The descendants of these messengers are still pointed out, and we have had occasion to observe the swiftness with which some of them would keep pace with our animals for leagues together."

The population is still composed in the main of the aborigines, who seem to have undergone in many respects but little change of character and habits since their subjugation by the Spaniards. Those of the Andes in Ecuador are thus described:—

"The Indians of the neighbourhood of Cuenca, and all those of Ecuador speaking the Quichua language, have changed so little in appearance, dress, customs, and manners, since Pizarro's invasion, that the best account of them would be a transcript of that which the old Spanish historians have handed down to us. They still speak the language of their forefathers, and the vocabulary which we collected agrees well with the earliest specimens of Quichua published; the men still wear a shirt, knee-breeches, and a poncho, all of wool, and made by their own hands; the women still dress in petticoats reaching a little below the knee, short body-coats, and a scarf worn like a shawl and secured on the breast with a large silver pin. They have changed their religion, and perhaps in many instances are sincerely attached to the Roman Catholic Church, but at heart many of them still venerate the *inti* (sun), and the part they take in religious processions—dancing before the images of the saints, and dressing in fantastic garments—would seem to be more deeply rooted than in mere usage. Indeed it is not likely that a people who in other respects cling to old customs with such pertinacity, should have so easily been induced to change what is dear to most men—their religion; for the Spaniards, after conquering the New World, did not adopt the course which is pursued with so much zeal and ability by missionaries at the present day. That instruction must precede conviction was a maxim the Spaniards were not prepared to uphold: they were satisfied if the natives could be induced to become nominal converts. Hence we find that the spirit of Christianity was seldom comprehended by the Indians, and that in many instances they worship the Roman Catholic saints, believing that they are doing homage to their own gods merely with another name.

"The Indians are strong and hardy, and are very numerous in places where they have avoided connexions with the whites or negroes,—for this, after all, appears to be the great secret to preserve them from destruction. We have been told repeatedly, that when a race becomes extinct after having become civilized, it is because it has acquired all the vices and few or none of the virtues of civilization. This assertion however must be regarded as mere cant; closer investigation shows that even if the highly refined European desired to instruct the savage in new vices, he would be

unable to carry out his intention. Those who read old historical works and journals will find that most nations, before they came in contact with us, were as demoralized as man can possibly be. Even ardent spirits were by no means new to most savage tribes; intoxicating drinks far more noxious than ours were known to them: the Mexicans had their *pulque*, the Peruvians their *chicha*, the Sandwich Islanders extracted a beverage from the Ki and the Ava plants, while the Kamtschadales were skilled in obtaining a strong drink from the roots of the *Spiraea Kamtschatica*.

"The Indians are well aware that they have been the lords of the country, and they are often heard to say that if they steal anything belonging to a white man they are not guilty of theft, because they are taking what originally belonged to them. How injurious such reasoning must be to society at large may easily be imagined; it proves that the consequences of a foul deed—as the conquest of Peru must be pronounced to be—were felt even after the lapse of centuries. That the Indians entertain a hope of freeing themselves from their oppressors, by 'driving them into the sea,' seems to be a well established fact. Whether they are sufficiently united to act in concert for carrying out this plan is difficult to determine, but it has been ascertained that there is an alliance between all the Indians speaking Quichua, called *Los Gentiles* by the Spaniards, and the more barbarous tribes living in the fastnesses of the primeval forests. Should they persevere in their intention, they will find it every day more easy, unless the face of the interior of Ecuador and Peru is greatly altered, for the white and mixed population, since immigration has ceased, or at least been less numerous, is decreasing, while the Indians, wherever they have kept themselves free from intermixture with other races, are steadily increasing."

In Darien, on the banks of the river Cupica, vast groves of vegetable ivory, a species of the genus *Phytelephas*, probably distinct from that found on the Magdalena, were met with. The Darien kind is always collected in separate groves, growing gregariously and unmingled with other trees, or even herbs, the ground beneath these palms (or rather screw-palms) being as bare as if it had been swept. The flowers of both male and female trees are exceedingly odorous, emitting a scent like that of almond-essence, and attracting swarms of bees. The fruits are aggregated in heads, each plant bearing from six to eight of these masses of drupes at one time. On an average each head contains eighty seeds, and when ripe weighs about twenty-five pounds. No use is made of them, however, although they might be turned to excellent account, and we call the attention of speculators to this discovery as one of considerable commercial interest; the more so, since at present much attention is being directed towards the products and resources of Darien. Several tribes of Indians inhabit the Isthmus, each speaking a different language and quarrelling with its neighbours. Of one of these tribes the following account is curious:—

"The Savaneries occupy the northern portion of Veraguas, and appear to be most numerous in a district situated a few days' journey from the village of Las Palmas. One of their chiefs has adopted the pompous title of King Lora Montezuma, and pretends to be a descendant of the Mexican Emperor conquered by Cortez; almost every year he sends ambassadors to Santiago, the capital of Veraguas, to inform the authorities that he is the legitimate lord of the country, and that he protests against any assumption on the part of the New-Granadian government. These ambassadors, who appear in mean dresses, and make known their mission in broken Spanish, are generally treated with ridicule. Although no credit can be attached to the assertion of King Lora that he is a descendant of the great Montezuma, yet

there is reason to suppose—and future investigations may tend to corroborate the supposition—that his subjects are a remote branch of the great family of Anahuac. Direct intercourse existed at the time of the discovery between the southern portions of the Mexican empire and Veraguas; little eagles, the national emblem of Mexico, are frequently met with in the tombs of the district, and chocolate is still the prevalent drink. Such facts are, in themselves, important enough to draw upon this tribe the attention of the ethnologist. Unfortunately no European has as yet had time to study it, and the Spanish inhabitants are too indolent, and it may be added, too much prejudiced against the Indians, ever to arrive at correct conclusions, or to make proper use of the rich materials scattered around them. How they reason may be inferred from the following: A gentleman, more intelligent than the generality of his countrymen, said, 'The very fact that that Indian takes the name of Lora, that of a parrot, is sufficient to show what a man he must be.' I told him however that 'Lora,' in the language of the natives, might have an entirely different signification, and that the mere similarity of sound was no proof of identity of meaning, and that the proceedings of this Indian chief looked so business-like, that, in my opinion, he must either be himself a superior man, or must have some European counsellor to direct his movements.

"The Savaneries are a fine athletic race, but are hardly distinguishable from their neighbours by any peculiarity of features. Their dress consists of short loose breeches, a kind of frock, and a broad hat. The garments are made either of wool, cotton, or the fibre of the Cucua. Dresses of the latter are common to all the Indians of the Isthmus, and, if well made, are perfectly waterproof. Their arms consist of bows, arrows, and spears, better adapted perhaps for hunting than for war. In their villages they live together in palenques, circular buildings, containing in the centre a spacious hall, and on the sides smaller apartments, in which the different families, or perhaps the branches of one large family, reside. Polygamy prevails universally, and, as in most communities where this institution exists, the women are considered as inferior beings; they have to perform all the hard labour,—however heavy the burden, however great the distance to which it has to be transported, the wives have to carry it, while their husbands, with their bows and arrows in their hands, leisurely walk by the side, and probably amuse themselves by playing with the dogs or shooting birds.

"Their food consists chiefly of Indian corn. They catch fish by poisoning the water with the pounded leaves of the Barbaco, and make excursions which furnish deer, sajinos, pigs, and wild turkeys. Cacao and maize, roasted and reduced to powder, are used for making their principal beverage. Their mode of disposing of the dead is the same as that of their forefathers. The corpse is wrapped in bandages, slowly dried over the fire, then deposited on a scaffold, and for some time supplied with food and drink. Besides their own clothing, the Indians manufacture from the fibres of the Pita (*Bromelia* sp.) bags of all sizes and colours, known by the name of *chacarás*, and they collect the resin of the *Saumerio* (*Styrax*), which, emitting an agreeable odour, is burnt as incense in the churches of Veraguas. Mules, horses, donkeys, and cattle are bred by them in great numbers, and taken to the adjacent towns and villages. Whatever may be disposed of, they seldom accept money in exchange; the most welcome return are knives, machetes, and other cutting instruments, and above all dogs, for which they have a great liking; unfortunately their fondness does not seem to be exercised in the same manner as among civilized people; the poor animals, after having been some time with their new masters, become very lean and skinny."

The second part of the narrative is mainly devoted to an account of the voyages of the *Herald* to the Arctic regions, through Behring's Strait, whither Captain Kellett was directed to proceed in order to unite with

H.M. exped though were were m during tremily exist b fixed 1d mounta 30 wes seen. ducted. Western full not seem to savages genera parts e feet in "Th ing, an eyebrow ears as appenl well fo distort portru labrets former riors. of those among if ther portat portio oblig them custod althou been came with Strait ask, quar living were they in th a sep ciess show The Wes T the is n indi of t Of mo "ma girl har a w not bri and tak is me wh so! pe co ho of po h

H.M. brig *Plover*, in searching for the lost expedition under Sir John Franklin. Although no trace of the objects of the search were encountered, geographical discoveries were made of no small consequence. It was during this voyage that the southern extremity of the Polar land, long reported to exist by the Russians, was discovered and fixed on the map. North of Herald Island, a mountainous and almost inaccessible mass of granite, in lat. $71^{\circ} 20'$ north, and long. $175^{\circ} 30'$ west, a high and far-extending land was seen. Very interesting researches were conducted respecting the natural history of Western Eskimo-land, and Mr. Seemann gives full notices of the people of that region, who seem to be a race of highly respectable semi-savages, by no means so diminutive as is generally supposed, indeed in the southern parts some of the men are said to be full six feet in height:—

"Their faces are flat, their cheek-bones projecting, and their eyes small, deeply set, and, like the eyebrows, black. Their noses are broad; their ears are large, and generally lengthened by the appendage of weighty ornaments; their mouths are well formed, their lips are thin, and, in the men, distorted by large beads or circular ivory labrets, protruding from diagonal cuts under them. These labrets correspond in shape and size with those formerly in use among the ancient Mexican warriors. This fact might be considered merely as one of those curious coincidences so frequently met with among nations widely separated from each other, if there were not another consideration more important. During the winter—by far the greater portion of the year—the Eskimos are frequently obliged, on account of the excessive cold, to take their out. From this it would appear that the custom could not have originated in the frigid zone, although it may have been retained after having been once adopted. We know that the Aztecs came from the north, and are able to trace them with tolerable accuracy to about the latitude of the Straits of Juan de Fuca; we may therefore well ask, May not the Eskimos have come from the same quarter, or at least have adopted the custom when living in milder regions? In Mexico the labrets were worn only by the soldiery, among the Eskimos they are in use with the men indiscriminately; but in the society of the former the warriors constituted a separate class, among the latter every one exercises that office. Their very name, *Innuut* (man), shows the estimation in which they hold themselves. The fact also that the labrets are only worn in Western Eskimo-land is deserving of consideration."

The speculation of the narrator concerning the line of migration of the Esquimaux race is not a very happy one, and would seem to indicate that his familiarity with the writings of the more learned ethnologists is but slight. Of the connubial habits of the Western Eskimos we have a brief notice:—

"The mode of marriage is curious. When a man has fixed upon his choice, he proceeds to the girl's mother, and asks at once for the daughter's hand: if the mother is satisfied that he can support a wife by the produce of the chase, and besides has nothing objectionable, she gives her consent. The bridegroom then gets a complete suit of clothing, and tenders it for the girl's acceptance; the bride takes it to her mother, and, returning dressed in it, is considered his wife. In the same manner two men sometimes marry the same woman—a custom which seems to have its origin in the paucity of the softer sex. After the marriage ceremony has been performed infidelity is very rare."

There are several passages of much interest concerning countries visited on the voyage homewards. The heavy and slow quizzing of the St. Helena people, extracted from the pages of Mr. Lockwood's 'Guide,' might, however, have been omitted with advantage.

Wherever Mr. Seemann touches, he collects botanical information of consequence, and fully appreciates the value of vegetable economics. At Singapore he made inquiry respecting the gutta percha tree, and confirms the statements that have been made about its rapid destruction and probable ultimate scarcity. It takes ten trees to yield one picul—i. e., $133\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of solid gutta. Now since between January, 1845, and the middle of 1847, no fewer than 6,918 piculs were sent from Singapore to Europe, the vast number of 69,180 trees must have been sacrificed! Since 1847 the use of this valuable substance has greatly extended. Its true name is 'gutta taban,' not 'gutta percha,' which is a distinct substance, and the product of an unknown tree.

Mr. Petermann has contributed an excellently drawn-up summary of the results of the several expeditions that have been conducted in search of Sir John Franklin, and there is an appendix containing nautical directions by Captain Trollope. Altogether these volumes are highly creditable to their author and to the expedition to which he was attached.

The Christiad. By Thomas Hawkins. Shaw and Sons.

We are sorry that a title suggesting ideas of sacredness is prefixed to a poem of which we can only speak with ridicule and pity. But this must not deter us from doing our duty as literary watchmen, and rather affords an additional reason for making Mr. Hawkins stand in the pillory. Had the book not been one of unusual magnitude and pretension we might have allowed it to pass unnoticed. But an Epic Poem of nine books, and about thirteen thousand lines, is not an every-day effort of poetic enterprise and ambition. We confess that we had some difficulty at first in ascertaining whether the author was serious in his subject, or whether he was writing a burlesque on the 'Paradise Lost' of Milton. Again, we wondered whether the book might not be written in unaffected ignorance of the great English Epic, but a reference to "Milton and the Maenian" dispelled this charitable delusion. We must allow Mr. Hawkins to speak for himself, and our readers to judge for themselves, as we present a few extracts from this extraordinary poem. We give the Argument of Book I:—

"Our author having proposed this solemn subject, takes an affecting leave of earth and the terrestrial nymphs, calls upon the Adorable Name, and hastens into the poem: and first, Azrael denounces the great archgerent Lucifer, who, answering the accusation presumptuously, wins a third of the angels to himself against Jehovah: two seraphim disagreeing on the spot, it adds to the confusion; but Lucifer urges the revolted away under leaders, and arrives at his seat of government: enthroning himself there, he, Apollyon, and others, harangue their angels: while they speak a portion of heaven goes to wreck, and they are drenched in ruin; but Lucifer recovers, resumes his debate, calls Chaos to their side, joins Night to the common mob, and precipitates the whole against the central power of heaven: they arrive in glee, God seems to be already lost, when Chaos wheels round madly affrighted and flees where the Archgerent swayed in primal honour: amazed at that glorious place, he pauses an instant there, but energising himself against its frame, he involves it in a destructive whirl, and dashes over the walls of heaven with all its elements.

"Appalled by this dread desertion, Lucifer himself turns; he follows, he pursues Chaos: overtaken

and arrested in the blank of space, a deadly struggle ensues between the two, but Chaos eventually overpowers the rebellious Princedom.

"Time—this book opens with the morning in Heaven."

From the sublime to the ridiculous it is but a short step with this author! Yet the maxims of epic poetry are to some extent followed. He commences with an invocation, and prepares forthwith to rush in *medias res*, according to the best critical canons and popular precedents. Taking an affecting leave of earth and things terrestrial (common sense included), "he calls on the adorable name, and hastens into the poem," whither, with all our patience and benevolence, we have dense difficulty in following him. Most readers, we suspect, soon after they find into what confusion they have come, like Chaos, as described in this argument, will 'turn round affrighted and flee.' The blank verse makes the matter worse, for in the absence of reason rhyme might afford some relief to the fatigued reader. Mr. Hawkins deserves to be crowned the poet-laureate of Chaos.

The Second Book opens with an invocation to Poesy, the opening line of which the goddess would have some difficulty in scanning, and the closing paragraph some difficulty in understanding:—

"Thou Soul of numbers, irresistibly felt
Burning, and seen in elemental air
Surrounded by all spirits known to men
And gods, the brightest brighter still for thee
The fairest lily craves thy peerless paint,
Gold cries for all thy gild, fiends are blacken'd
Blackest, the grimmest sub-Tartarian powers
And salamandrine gnomes transpicuous lit
By thine exceeding fire; lift me up,
Marvellous Poesy! beyond the spheres
Of nature and those compasses of thought
Which the Maenian and Milton reach'd
In the sublimity of their attempt;
With euphrasy from heaven's own herbs, in flower,
Seven times distill'd by lucid moons, my eyes
Are purged, then summon the supernal Powers
To action, all the properties of things
Inform to ready service, strike the strings
Of iron to an immeasurable swell!
Upon the ear what rushes twang'd to storm?
Colossal spirits rise unto the sound;
Lo, how they thicken, desperately compell'd!
On this imperishable page transcribed
By an elaborate fancy, time shall make
The master-piece of painting more divine.
Now Night in that wild drift confounded, scarce
Knowing what thing to do," &c.

We also in this wild drift confounded, pass on to something less poetical but more intelligible. Perhaps mineralogists may be charmed by the following catalogue in verse:—

"Fold thou mine eyes Calliope while I frame
The splendid catalogue; acanticones,
Alalite, analcime, augite, bildstein,
Botryolite, cornelian, celestine,
Datolite, dipyre, moonstone, pyrochlore,
Plasma, prase, pyrope, quartz, scherbenkobalt,
Sideroschizolite, sun-opallite,
Talc, telluret, tincal, endellion,
Feldspar, fluor, fulgurite, garnet, blende,
With all their sapphirine and satin shades:
Inwoven purples, paly, plumy, pearls
Express them not; sardonix, sardius,
Chrysoprasus, and chrysolite, topaz,
Amethyst, jacinth, beryl, ill explain
Their wonder: jewels most on earth admired,
Were common stones in the comparison:
But the most precious relic of the heavens
Primordial, came down, God-given, to us;
Muse! let us tell, though foolish Midas smile
To find it in our Coronation chair:
That stonè Aurora unto Titihons
One morning at the foot of Ida show'd,
Tithon to Brito; he, forewarn'd before
The fall of Troy, set sail and to these isles
Their true palladium brought: Ierne first
Received it; witness her Dardanian harp:
Next Caledonia; the Æolian King
In Caledonia slew the branny boar:
England, the seat of Empire, last receives."

The line containing only two words—

"Sideroschizolite, sun-opallite,"

is not a solitary instance of the author's ingenuity in versification. We find the following in one of the descriptions of Lucifer:—

"His plumes, both far and wide,
Flurrying flames disgorge, as on with swift
Incomprehensible precipitancy
And vehemence they wing—they wing in all
Th' infernal majesty solely his own,
Though corrugate as Cain."

There is a traditional story that Oxford once challenged Cambridge to match a line containing only two Latin words, sending the hexameter—

"Perturbabatur Constantinopolitani,"
to which, from Cam to Isis, was sent back the
Pentametric rejoinder:—

"Innumeralibus sollicitudinibus."

The 'incomprehensible precipitancy' of Mr. Hawkins hardly scans so well as this Latin *jeu d'esprit*. The battle of the angels in the Sixth Book we can hardly persuade ourselves to be not written in burlesque. The slightest incident here is more astounding than the greatest marvels in the fights of Homer or Milton. When Lucifer moves

"A whirlwind rises, that this earth
More than sufficed to turn against the whirl
Diurnal, and, so turning, spin earth out
Unravell'd nebulousity to space!"

One of the spiritual warriors is wounded mortally—

"Yet still he breathed, lived, fought, retired, revived,
Even as these he did; his streaming eyes
Stunched by a more than Æsculapian art
And cranium quick reintebrated by
The solder of a most determined will."

Although we can only speak with severe criticism of the 'Christiad' as a poem, we must do the author the justice to say that there are passages containing high thoughts and noble feelings, however uncouthly expressed. We would gladly give examples of such, but we have difficulty in selecting half-a-dozen lines consecutively without some weakness or eccentricity. Had more been written after the fashion of the following lines, the author's attempt would have been differently estimated:—

"Faith and sight
Are rules opposed, and we the first prefer:
Those who their conduct govern by the last
End life as bankrupts; where was Gibbon's hope?
Lost; where was Voltaire's? Wit and learning fail;
Fame, genius, power, all that the world esteems,
Fail man in the inevitable hour:
The Word of God remains; for high, and low;
Ign'rance, and erudition: unto all
The Testament of heaven is life, hope, love,
And introduction to eternal bliss;
Mechanics, artists, lessons here may get
Invaluable; ignorance spell out
Celestial wisdom; covenanting Grace
Shines line to line; and precept precept shows
In dictionary plainness to the eye:
Not all the odes through the Olympians sung,
Compare with those found there from Zion's hill:
That is true poetry!"

There is also a fine burst of Christian and patriotic feeling at the close of the poem, where Britain is addressed as the mightiest of empires, but chiefly honoured as the distributor of the divine word among the nations of the earth:—

"And O my Country! last and dearest theme!
My much loved Country that confronts this world
Greatest and noblest; whom the Lord appoints
Chiefest among all Nations; crown'd the Queen
Of Time; of war and peace, the Arbitress;
Serenely rising First, Magnific, Free;
Religion her immortal quest prefers,
And I am blest the message to translate."

Thus in thy House for ever thou shalt dwell,
Filling the world with cities; branching out,
Like thine own oak, a shelter to mankind;
If God be welcome to thy heart and mind:
Zealous in duty and in all good works
Be thou; the unction of delight and joy
Gracefully shining on thy favour'd head:
O let the patience and the faith of saints
Prevail through all thy territorial might!
The Everlasting Gospel thus shall be
Preach'd, more and more effectually to all
The nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples here;
Until the world fear God and give to Him
The glory which is God's undoubted right."

Had Mr. Hawkins been content with hum-

bler themes his aspiring genius and patient industry might have produced some literary work worthy of approbation; but in his ambition to soar too high his fate has been that of Icarus, or of Lucifer, whose overthrow, as described in the poem, is a magnificent specimen of bathos—

"Down-fall'n, he goes
Falling as if for ever from the skies,
Pursued by Vengeance vehement and, oh,
Transcendent Horror and eternal Ail."

Harry Muir: A Story of Scottish Life. By the author of 'Passages in the Life of Mrs. Margaret Maitland.' 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

THE merit of this tale consists in the faithfulness with which various scenes and characters of Scottish life are depicted. So far as taste is concerned, this faithful delineation is more to be spoken of as matter of praise for the writer than of pleasure for the reader. The story being one of ordinary incidents in common circles of middle and humble life, the plain and unsoftened exhibition of such scenes and persons has something of the same unpleasant effect produced by the truthful but unromantic pictures of the daguerreotype. The actual merit, however, of either the literary or pictorial production of art depends not on the likings or dislikings of those to whom it is presented; and therefore the story of 'Harry Muir,' disagreeable as some parts of it may seem, from the roughness of provincial dialect or the plainness of every-day feeling, is to be admired as a skilful and spirited picture of lowland Scottish life and manners in our own day. A few sentences will suffice to indicate the tenor of the tale. The opening chapter introduces the reader to a group of youths at Glasgow, two Buchanans, sons of a merchant, their cousin, Cuthbert Charteris, who is a young lawyer from Edinburgh, and Harry Muir, a clerk in Buchanan's counting-house. Harry Muir's character comes out very early in the story—good-natured, clever, and 'easily led,' the latter epithet referring chiefly to the too national readiness to succumb to the temptations of whisky-toddy. He had also been fool enough to marry a young wife, though he had three sisters living with him, and his clerk's salary only amounted to sixty pounds a year, equal perhaps to about eighty in London. For the entertainment of Mr. Charteris, the Edinburgh advocate, they all dine together, though the merchant's sons make some difficulty about such familiarity with one who is only a clerk. As they are going home along the streets at night, Harry Muir is kicked by a horse in trying to save a child who was in danger. He is carried home under charge of Charteris, who thus becomes acquainted with the sisters, whom he saw during frequent visits to Harry. Martha, Rose, and Violet Muir are very good specimens of plain, every-day Scottish girls, the eldest, Martha, exercising a mother-like charge in the household, Agnes, the wife of Harry, being a gentle timid cipher. All the females of the household employed themselves in some kind of industrial needwork peculiar to the west of Scotland. The attachment of Charteris to the second sister, Rose, is soon apparent, and forms the chief connecting thread of the narrative. Later in the story he reappears in Glasgow as the volunteer agent of an Edinburgh writer or attorney, who was in quest of the heirs of an estate in Stirlingshire, worth four or five hundred pounds a year. Cuth-

bert, on hearing some hints which led him to think the Muir family the heirs, followed out the proof successfully, his adventures in connexion with which suggest the best parts of the tale. Old Sandy Muir, an uncle of Harry, is searched out at Ayr, and the description of the room where he received Charteris is well drawn:—

"His old easy-chair had been removed from the fireside corner to the window. It was a latticed window, furnished with a broad shelf extending all the length of its deep recess, which seemed to have been made for plants—but no plants interposed themselves between the sunshine and the books, which were the best beloved companions of the old, gentle, solitary man. Cuthbert looked at them as they lay in little heaps in the corner of the window. There was no dust about them, but almost as little arrangement. They lay, as their contents lay in the head of their good master, mingled in pleasant friendliness. The Fourfold State and the Crook in the Lot embraced the royal sides of Shakspeare, and a much-used copy of Burns lay peacefully beside the Milton, which, to tell truth, opened more easily at Comus or at Il Penseroso than it either Paradise. Besides these there were Cowper and Young, an odd volume of the Spectator, an old time-worn copy of the Pilgrim, with Samuel Rutherford's Letters, and Fleming, the interpreter of prophecy, and the quaint Willison ballasting some volumes of Scott and Galt. Daily friends and comrades were these, bearing marks of long and frequent use, some of them encased in homely covers of green cloth, which the old man's own careful hands had endured them with; some half-bound, after his fashion, with stripes of uncultivated 'calf' defending their backs, and their boards gay with marbled paper. It was pleasant to see them, in their disarrangement, upon the broad ledge of the window, friends too intimate and familiar to be kept on ceremonious terms."

The introduction of the name of Galt is somewhat apocryphal, as his books will not be found in one in a thousand Scottish houses, but the authoress probably has done this on account of the compliment paid to her own first work by Jeffrey, who said it was the best thing of the kind since the Scottish stories of Galt. But let this pass. We give part of the scene which took place when Sandy Muir took the young lawyer to the house of an old woman, Jean Calder, who had some documents belonging to the Muir family:—

"'Good morning to ye, Alexander Muir,' said Miss Jean, 'who's this ye've brought in your hand?'"

"'The gentleman is from Edinburgh, Miss Jean,' said Alexander. 'He is a friend of Harry's, and has been kind to him, as most folk are, indeed, who ken the lad.'"

"'I tell ye, Sandy, ye have made a fool of that boy,' said the old woman, harshly; 'a wasteful spendthrift lad that would throw away every bawbee that he had, and mair, that he hasna; but he needna look to sorn on me if ever he comes to want. I have nae mair than I can do wi' myself; and where's my twenty shillings, guid white monie, that I gied to fit him out?'"

"'He will pay it back some day, no fear,' said Alexander; 'for I hear from this gentleman that Harry is like to prosper, poor man, and no doubt he will mind his friends, Miss Jean. The gentleman has been speaking to me of your guid sister, John Calder's wife. He thinks he kens some good friends she had. Did you ever hear what part that family came from?'"

"'Ay, good friends? where are they? what's like to come o't?' said Miss Jean, fixing the frosty eyes, whose keen light contrasted so strangely with her ashy wrinkled face, on Cuthbert."

"'I cannot tell,' said Cuthbert, warily; 'it depends entirely upon what relationship I may discover—but it may be good for those who were

kind to the Allenders, Miss Calder, if I find that they were relatives of the family I suppose."

"Kind to the Allenders? Do you ken, lad, that it was my mother took them in, when their father died, and the poor things hadna a mortal to look after them?—kind to the Allenders, said he?—weel, weel—puir bairns, they're baith gane."

"Something human crossed the sharp pinched selfish face—even in this degraded spirit, there was a memory of the fragrant far away youth."

"And Mr. Charteris," said Alexander Muir, "would like to ken where they came from, Miss Jean—it is weel kent how good ye were to the orphans—I am meaning your mother—and no doubt you ken better about them than indifferent folk;—that was the way I troubled you, and brought Mr. Charteris this length."

"Wha's Mr. Charteris?"

"It's the gentleman," said the old man simply.

"If they left any papers," interposed Cuthbert, "or books, or any relics indeed from which we might discover their origin—I should feel it a great obligation, Miss Calder, if you would assist me to trace it."

"Obligation! I have little broo of obligation," said the old woman, with a grating laugh, mingled of harshness and imbecility. "I have seen ower mony folk that I obliged, slip away out of my hand like a knotless thread; but is there anything like to come of it? I dinna ken this stranger lad—I can put trust in you, Alexander Muir—that is in what you say, ye ken."

"Well, Miss Jean, it depends upon what the gentleman finds out," said the old man, a little proud of his tactics, and marvelling within himself at his own address, "if he can be satisfied by means of any papers or books or such like—I believe something good may come of it."

"The old woman wavered. 'It's a hantle trouble,' she said, 'to put a frail woman like me to, that have but a little monkey of a lassie to help me in the house,—but there is a kist ben yonder in below the bed—and there may be some bits of things in it—I dinna ken—but neither her nor me are fit to pull it out.'

"Can I help it," said Cuthbert, hurriedly.

"Ye're unco ready wi' your offer, lad," said Miss Jean, grimly; "it's no for love o' the wark, I judge, wi' thae bit white lassie's fingers—look at mine," and she extended a long shrivelled hand, armed like the claws of a bird. "Na, na, I ken naething about you—but if Katie and you can manage it, Sandy Muir—and she's a fusionless brat, no worth the half of the meat she eats—I'll be nae hindrance—ye can try."

In the said 'kist' were found sundry papers, and especially an old Bible, in a blank leaf of which were found entries furnishing the requisite legal proofs. After due time, Harry Muir is installed in his property, and the household removes to Allenders Hall, the young laird taking the name of the family property. But in his new sphere the same easiness of disposition proves his ruin. He falls into disgrace and poverty, a cousin, a young medical student, helping to lead him astray. At last he comes to a miserable death, being thrown from his horse when intoxicated. Charteris is the good genius of the story, and remains throughout a steady friend to the family, and his services are great in the difficulties in which the estate is left on the death of the foolish and extravagant owner. The spirit and good sense of Martha are also then conspicuous, and arrangements are made by which the property is saved for poor Agnes Allender and her child. The happy marriage of Charteris and Rose follows as matter of course. The state of matters on the bridal morning we give as a pleasant specimen of the author's narrative style:—

"The sun shone in next morning gaily to the rooms of Allenders, now suddenly awakened as out

of a three years' sleep; and Agnes curls her bright hair, and lets the sunshine glow upon it as she winds it round her fingers, and with a sigh lays away the widow's cap, which would not be suitable, she thinks, on Rose's wedding-day; but the sigh is a long-drawn breath of relief—and with an innocent satisfaction, Agnes, blooming and youthful still, sees her pretty curls fall again upon her cheek, and puts on her new white gown. It is a pleasant sensation, and her heart rises unawares, though this other sigh parts her lips. Poor Harry! his little wife will think of him to-day!

"Think and weep, but only with a serene and gentle melancholy; for the young joyous nature has long been rising; and Agnes, though she never can forget, laments no longer with the reality of present grief. It is no longer present—it is past, and only exists in remembrance; and Agnes is involuntarily glad, and will wear her widow's cap no more."

"And Martha is dressing little Harry, who will not be quiet in her hands for two minutes at a time, but dances about with a perpetual elasticity, which much retards his toilet. There are smiles on Martha's face—grave, quiet smiles—for she too has been thinking, with a few tears this morning, that Harry will be at the bride's side, to join in the blessing with which she sends her other child away."

"And Rose, in her own chamber, in a misty and bewildered confusion, seeing nothing distinctly either before or behind her, turns back at last to that one solemn fact, which never changes, and remembers Harry—remembers Harry, and weeps, out of a free heart which carries no burden into the unknown future, some sweet pensive tears for him and for the home she is to leave to-day; and so sits down in her bewilderment to wait for Martha's summons, calling her to meet the great hour whose shadow lies between her and the skies."

"And Lettie's flowers are on the table, breathing sweet, hopeful odours over the bridegroom and the bride. And Lettie, absorbed and silent, listens with a beating heart for some sign that Harry is here, and starts with a thrill of recognition when her heart imagines a passing sigh. Poor Harry! if he is not permitted to stand unseen among them, and witness this solemnity, he is present in their hearts."

Harry Muir, the nominal hero of the story, is throughout a disagreeable personage, with little to attract interest, or even sympathy. Martha is a better drawn and finely national portrait. The characters of Sandy Muir, and the old gardener at Allenders, and others throughout the tale, sustain the author's reputation as an able delineator of modern Scottish life and manners.

An Englishwoman's Experience in America.

By Marianne Finch. Bentley.

A JOURNEY through the states of America is not a very novel subject of contemplation, but when performed by a woman of shrewdness and vivacity, it may fairly be expected to offer some points of interest. The opening chapter of this volume does not present a very favourable impression of the authoress, and the work is tinged throughout with a dash of unfeminine boldness, sufficient at times to raise a blush, and hardly to be regarded as the type of a well-bred Englishwoman. The narrative is a singular compound of wit, immodesty, and feebleness. With some clever snatches of observation the reflections and comments are too often light, puerile, or unsound, and, as we shall presently show, there is an infinite deal of nonsense about the science of society and the rights of woman. From its intense interest, however, on this point for the softer sex the book will find many light readers.

Mrs. Marianne Finch (we take it our

authoress is a married woman) left Liverpool with her papa in the summer of 1849 for a twelvemonth's tour, or, as she would herself perhaps express it, a year's rollicking, in the United States. She arrived in thirteen days at New York, and after luxuriating in squash pie at the Revere, proceeds by rail to Boston. Here she visits several places in the vicinity, and describes the bedrooms, chairs, drawers, and washstands of the Lowell boarding-houses with the minuteness of a Head. From another excursion we may select an extract:—

"In January, 1851, we visited Nashua and Concord. At the latter place, Judge M— and his lady called for us in their sleigh, and drove us round the town and neighbourhood. This is a most exciting and delightful mode of travelling. Wrapped up in buffalo-skins, with a bottle of hot water at your feet, you skim over the snow at the rate of twelve miles an hour, without noise, save the sweet and silvery tinklings of the bells round the necks of the horses; the atmosphere bright, clear, and cold, several degrees below zero. Such was the day on which I saw Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. It is prettily situated in an undulating and woody country. The proportions of land and water I could not see, everything being covered with deep snow—pure and spotless as virgin innocence, and cold as it was pure. In vain the God of Day sent forth his choicest beams, and smiled, and wooed, and filled the landscape with a flood of light. Cold and impenetrable, the object of his attentions sat enthroned in beauty and sparkling with gems, exulting in her triumph: yet seeming to scorn the homage that so enhanced her beauty."

"On our return to Boston, by the evening train, I was most unfortunately located in a group of expectorating gentlemen, whom it pleased my evil genius to keep near me all the way back. In vain I opened the window, hoping to drive them to a warmer latitude; no vacancy occurred in those regions, so I was obliged to reconcile myself to becoming a peninsula in a sea of tobacco-juice—too happy if I could keep it out of my face, which was often in peril, from one of this chewing fraternity squirting past me through the open window. Luckily, he was always successful in his aims, and 'cleared' me and the window. I suppose it was confidence in his own skill that prevented him from reassuring me, when I shrunk back, as a gentleman with similar aims did a friend of mine, who sat between him and a coach window; observing she was a little nervous when the filthy missile passed her, he said kindly, 'Don't trouble, ma'am, I guess I can clear you.'"

Of the duties of women, and their capacity, equally with men, to do the work of the world, the authoress has some amusing notions; and she hunts up women conventions and lady lecture-meetings with singular avidity:—

"If men and women are *similar* in their natures, and it be so desirable for men to have a voice in the making of the laws by which they are governed, it must be equally so for women. If men and women are *different* in their natures, what business have men to legislate for women at all? It is evident they cannot with any justice make laws for beings of a different nature to themselves, whose feelings and motives they can neither realise nor understand."

"The first time I heard Miss Bacon lecture, I found a large audience of ladies present, about half of them at needlework; the other half preparing to take notes. She was seated at a desk, on which were several books of reference. Behind her, resembling a large folding screen, was a chart of history, constructed on a plan of her own. It represented six thousand years, the time supposed to have elapsed since the creation of man. This was divided into three parts, of two thousand years each; the last two thousand years, beginning with Christ, not yet completed. These divisions were subdivided into periods of one thousand years;

and, after the commencement of the historical era, into periods of five hundred years each. * * *

"The next morning I went to see some anatomical figures, exhibited by Madame Sarti. A single visit is charged half a dollar. By paying a dollar, and joining a class, you can make four visits of an hour each, and receive a more complete explanation. Madame S—— is a young and beautiful Englishwoman, whose husband dying soon after landing in America, she was left unprovided for, except by continuing his occupation of dissecting and explaining these figures. Fortunately she had acquired a sufficient knowledge of anatomy for this purpose, and is very successful.

"In the afternoon I attended a lecture at the 'Ladies' Physiological Institute.' There were about sixty ladies present, constituting the audience. Standing on the platform, beside the lecturer, was a 'female manikin.' It represented the human figure, minus the skin, arms, and ribs; thus affording a good view of its internal structure, on which the professor was expatiating. While speaking, he frequently put his hand on the shoulder—sometimes his arm round the neck—of this ghastly-looking object. By degrees I became accustomed to it; but at first it was really startling to see him take such liberties with a lady of her appearance."

This institute is entirely composed of ladies, governed by women officers and a board of women directors. Some account of lady physicians then follows:—

"At this meeting I was introduced to a Miss Blackwell, who told me she had a sister who had been in Europe nearly two years, finishing her education as a physician.

"Another interesting specimen of the same class of women is Miss H——, whose views on this subject may be best gathered from her own words, extracted from an address delivered by her at the Convention at Worcester, Mass., in October, 1850:—'We are living in an age when old-established customs are examined as to their worth, and habits and tendencies are brought to the light, that their soundness may be proved, or that they may vanish like dew before the sun.

"Noble men and women have been working upon the outer skin, and thus preventing a palsy in the community; but still the heart, the central point of circulation, has not been reached.

"Surface remedies have been applied, and irritants and stimulants have performed their uses; but now we need something internal, and therefore we demand equal freedom of development, equal advantages of education, for both sexes.

"In asking your attention to the professional sphere of woman, as a physician, I speak from the experience of many years.

"I have lived in the work, loved it, felt its power, enjoyed its privileges, been sustained in it by kind and intelligent spirits, and I would here gratefully acknowledge that 'the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places, and I have had a goodly heritage.'

"For fourteen years, in the city of Boston, the place of my birth and education, my path has been public, as a physician for my own sex, and for children; and although, at the first, ridicule busied herself about me, and ill-nature furnished her weapons, yet the consciousness of right, and the deep enjoyment growing out of that consciousness, have amply sustained me. My own experience is my stand-point in offering the following remarks:—

"It is to the right and duty of opening for women a legitimate sphere, around which too many obstacles have been placed, that I ask your particular attention.

"The medical education of women is a positive necessity. It will fit her if she become a mother (for no change can alter the highest law of her nature), not only to understand the delicate organizations committed to her care; but so to guard her own system, that she may not become a victim to the thousand wearing, weakening, prostrating, protracted diseases, which so often unfit women for life and duty. Her affections need truths to guide them.

"When the time comes that physiological knowledge is diffused among our people, and there is a oneness in our medical departments—then, and then only, will the influence of states of mind, and qualities of thought, be thoroughly searched out, in reference to ourselves and our children.

"We ask for no appropriation of public money; but we do ask for women equal medical advantages with those enjoyed by men. We ask that the medical colleges may be opened to her; and that the whole of human nature may aid in promoting the well-being of humanity.

"Male and female created he them, and blessed them," are the words of Holy Writ. We ask for the recognition of this truth in the medical department."

Some of the American female Associations do not, however, prosper, and the authoress thus ludicrously grieves over the introduction of machinery for the purposes of knitting and sewing:—

"It is a hard case that woman should be constantly pushed out of her sphere in this way, when there is so much said and written to keep her in it. However, it is of no use lamenting lost spheres."

As an example of 'particular notions' the following is significant:—

"At this time I saw a good deal of a lady who had just returned from the Sandwich Islands, after a residence there of seven years. She liked it very much. The climate is beautiful and healthy. The society is pleasant, consisting principally of Americans, who reside there, and travellers from all parts of the world, who call there on their way to other countries. The natives are quick and docile, and make good servants. She had been often at court. The king and queen dress, and have their house furnished after the European fashion. The queen is about thirty years of age, nice looking, with pleasing manners. Since their conversion to Christianity, they have adopted the custom of having one husband and one wife; but relieve the monotony by occasional amours. The difference between them and us being, that the women have the same liberty as the men in this respect."

At Saratoga Marianne goes early to have a peep at the natives, and seems almost disappointed at not finding them in *puris naturalibus*:—

"The next morning I rose early, in order to visit some Indians, who were encamped in a wood about two miles from the village. I arrived about 7 A.M., and found several at their toilette. One young lady was dressing her hair at the door of her tent. A young gentleman was performing the same operation under a tree; others were going through the process of ablation. There was nothing alarming in it; they were sufficiently civilized to do it on a very limited scale, using a bit of soap the size of a button, and a towel as large as a knife-cloth, instead of swimming about in a river, as savages ought to do."

At Lebanon, which is the next place visited, we are introduced to the Shakers, and the authoress's account of this singular community is the most interesting part of her book:—

"The principal establishment of Shakers is about two miles from the hotel, and the next day being Sunday, and fine weather, we went to see their mode of worship. Their meeting-house is not opened to strangers if it rains, on account of the dirt they introduce, and I do not wonder at it, for I never saw any place so exquisitely clean. It is a large oblong room, without pulpit, pews, carpets, or any of the usual appendages of a church. There were forms for the brethren on one side, for the sisters on the other; also for strangers, male and female. These greatly exceeded the Shakers on the present occasion, who numbered about eighty women and one hundred men. The latter looked like respectable farmers. They wore broad-brimmed straw hats and dark cloth trousers; their waistcoats rather more complete garments than with us, and no coats. Altogether it is a comfortable and

not unbecoming costume. But as to the dress of the women, it is certainly the most ingenious device that ever was contrived for concealing all personal advantages. A bulbous-shaped muslin cap, that hides all the hair and covers half the face; a long narrow dress, with the waist at the arm-pit, so fashioned that the shoulders all look equally high; the neck covered with a little square white handkerchief, pinned down before, and a pocket-handkerchief, folded in a small square, and pinned near the region of the heart, or thrown waiterwise over the arm, constitute a costume that would disfigure the very Goddess of Beauty.

"There were no prayers or books. The service commenced with singing; then a brother addressed them. More singing. Another address laudatory of Shaker advantages. Then a brother stepped forward and addressed us of the outer world, saying we were welcome to attend their place of worship, but we must remember that they had built it for their own use, with the produce of their own labour; and if we did not agree with them he hoped we should treat them with respect, as we had come of our own accord. He found these remarks necessary, as sometimes their guests forgot what was due to good manners. More singing; then a lecture justifying Shakerism. The speaker said they differed from other Christians on two points: they gave up sexual intercourse, and treated all as brethren and equals, making all share alike in temporal advantages. The latter was talked of by other Christians, but they *did* it. He hit us pretty hard, and often very justly. It was a very good address till he spoke of marriage and spirit, when he became a little obscure. After this came the much-talked-of dancing. It does not really amount to dancing; it is a sort of walking chaunt. They move up and down and in circles, singing, and keeping time with their feet and hands, clapping the latter at intervals."

On subjects relating to the celibacy of the Shakers, Marianne Finch was particularly curious:—

"Another article of their faith is one I did not expect to find among the advocates of celibacy, namely:—That all human action is imperfect that is not the result of the combined efforts of what they consider the two halves of humanity—men and women. They explain it in this way:—After God had created the world, he said, 'Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.'

"Now what does this mean?" inquired one of the elders to whom I was talking.

"I have heard it quoted as an argument for the Trinity," I replied.

"And why the Trinity? It says nothing about the Trinity. It states expressly that 'God created man in his own image; male and female created he them.' Is it not evident from this, that there exists in the Deity the likeness of male and female; forming the unity of that creative principle from which proceeds the work of father and mother, manifested in his attributes of power and wisdom—the former creating, the latter bringing forth in order, and governing all his works? If it were not so, then man who was created male and female, could not be said to show forth the image and likeness of God. But the existence of the male and female principle in the Deity being spiritual, does not necessarily imply two persons, but one incomprehensible Almighty; being the source of all life, and towards whom we all tend in proportion to our spiritual purity. These two principles are not only represented in man, but extend to the animal, and even the vegetable world: each imperfect by itself, and equally incapable of developing its nature, but united, forming one entire being, sufficient for all the purposes of its existence."

"But you do not act on this rule," said I.

"Yes, we do—we associate women in everything: in our government, in our religion, in our social affairs, she stands beside us—not as our property, but as our equal and helpmate. We have the same moral code; and the same obedience to it

is required from both sexes. We do not marry in the flesh, because we think Christ condemned it, both by precept and example; and we are told that he was sent as an example for us, that we should follow in his steps. Christ, our Saviour and Regenerator, was born of a virgin, led a virgin life himself, and exhorted his followers to leave father, mother, brothers, and sisters, wife and children, and follow him, or they could not be his disciples; saying, that in the kingdom of Heaven they neither marry nor are given in marriage.

"Then, do you think the married will be excluded from Heaven?"

"No; but we consider Heaven a progressive and purely spiritual state, and by beginning that life here, we shall always be that much in advance of those who do not."

"But were not Adam and Eve commanded by God 'to increase and multiply, and replenish the earth'?"

"Do you not carry your improvements a little too far? According to your plan, to use a Yankee phrase, man would be very soon 'improved' off the face of the earth."

"Well," said a philosophical elder, "what would that signify; suppose the present race of man became extinct, could not the power who created us fill our places with beings of a higher order? Geology proves that many races of animals who inhabited this earth in past ages have long ceased to exist, and their places have been supplied by others of a more elaborate organization: why should not man be subject to this law, and make room for a better race?"

"Fortunately for me I was relieved from the necessity of answering this question by the arrival of the carriage to take us to the railway station."

Having given our readers a tolerably pungent example of the flavour of Marianne Finch's journal, we may assure them that, with some things to object to and much to amuse, they will find in it not a little to astonish.

A Key to 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' presenting the Original Facts and Documents upon which the Story is Founded. By Harriet Beecher Stowe. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.; Clarke, Beeton, and Co.; and T. Bosworth.

We shall not hear any more now about the 'exaggerations' of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' Mrs. Stowe has published in the 'Key' to that work the facts and documents upon which the story is founded, together with corroborative proofs of all the statements made in her novel. To those who knew anything of the real state of American slavery this verification was needless. But the bold denial of the truth of many of Mrs. Stowe's representations rendered it advisable that authentic proofs should be presented. The defenders of slavery have themselves to blame for the exposure of the system which is now made. Truth is here stranger and more terrible than fiction. Instead of over-drawing, it appears that Mrs. Stowe has softened down the materials of her tale. She very justly remarks that "slavery, in some of its workings, is too dreadful for the purposes of art. A work which should represent it strictly as it is, would be a work which could not be read."

Viewed merely as a literary work, we never saw any force in the criticisms urged against 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' on the score of the incidents being peculiar or highly-coloured, and the characters being exaggerated and exceptional. The same objection might be made to the writings of Scott, Dickens, or Thackeray. The characters of Shakspeare himself might on this ground be ignorantly found fault with. On the point of exaggeration,

and on the general tenor of Mrs. Stowe's work, a letter is published in the 'Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin,' from a Mr. Goodloe, of North Carolina, the opinions of which are so judicious and the sentiments so generous and impartial, that we present it as a most favourable specimen of American character and writing:—

"A book of fiction, to be worth reading, must necessarily be filled with rare and striking incidents, and the leading characters must be remarkable, some for great virtues, others, perhaps, for great vices or follies. A narrative of the ordinary events in the lives of common-place people would be insufferably dull and insipid; and a book made up of such materials would be, to the elegant and graphic pictures of life and manners which we have in the writings of Sir Walter Scott and Dickens, what a surveyor's plot of a ten-acre field is to a painted landscape, in which the eye is charmed by a thousand varieties of hill and dale, of green shrubbery and transparent water, of light and shade, at a glance. In order to determine whether a novel is a fair picture of society, it is not necessary to ask if its chief personages are to be met with every day; but whether they are characteristic of the times and country,—whether they embody the prevalent sentiments, virtues, vices, follies, and peculiarities,—and whether the events, tragic or otherwise, are such as may and do occasionally occur."

"Judging 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' by these principles, I have no hesitation in saying that it is a faithful portraiture of Southern life and institutions. There is nothing in the book inconsistent with the laws and usages of the slaveholding States; the virtues, vices, and peculiar hues of character and manners are all Southern, and must be recognised at once by every one who reads the book. I may never have seen such depravity in one man as that exhibited in the character of Legree, though I have ten thousand times witnessed the various shades of it in different individuals. On the other hand, I have never seen so many perfections concentrated in one human being as Mrs. Stowe has conferred upon the daughter of a slave-holder. Evangeline is an image of beauty and goodness which can never be effaced from the mind, whatever may be its prejudices; yet her whole character is fragrant of the South: her generous sympathy, her beauty and delicacy, her sensibility, are all Southern. They are 'to the manner born,' and embodying as they do the Southern ideal of beauty and loveliness, cannot be ostracized from Southern hearts, even by the power of the Vigilance Committees."

"The character of St. Clare cannot fail to inspire love and admiration. He is the *beau idéal* of a Southern gentleman—honourable, generous, and humane, of accomplished manners, liberal education, and easy fortune. In his treatment of his slaves, he errs on the side of lenity, rather than vigour; and is always their kind protector, from a natural impulse of goodness, without much reflection upon what may befall them when death or misfortune shall deprive them of his friendship."

"Mr. Shelby, the original owner of Uncle Tom, and who sells him to a trader, from the pressure of a sort of pecuniary necessity, is by no means a bad character; his wife and son are whatever honour and humanity could wish; and, in a word, the only white persons who make any considerable figure in the book to a disadvantage are the villain Legree, who is a Vermonter by birth, and the oily-tongued slave-trader Haley, who has the accent of a Northerner. It is, therefore, evident that Mrs. Stowe's object in writing 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' has not been to disparage Southern character. A careful analysis of the book would authorize the opposite inference—that she has studied to shield the Southern people from opprobrium, and even to convey an elevated idea of Southern society, at the moment of exposing the evils of the system of slavery. She directs her batteries against the institution, not against individuals; and generously makes a renegade Vermonter stand for her most hideous picture of a brutal tyrant."

"Invidious as the duty may be, I cannot withhold my testimony to the fact that families of slaves are often separated. I know not how any man can have the hardihood to deny it. The thing is notorious, and is often the subject of painful remark in the Southern States. I have often heard the practice of separating husband and wife, parent and child, defended, apologised for, palliated in a thousand ways, but have never heard it denied. How could it be denied, in fact, when probably the very circumstance which elicited the conversation was a case of cruel separation then transpiring? No, sir! the denial of this fact by mercenary scribblers may deceive persons at a distance, but it can impose upon no one at the South."

"In all the slave-holding States the relation of matrimony between slaves, or between a slave and free person, is merely voluntary. There is no law sanctioning it, or recognising it in any shape, directly or indirectly. In a word, it is illicit, and binds no one,—neither the slaves themselves nor their masters. In separating husband and wife, or parent and child, the trader or owner violates no law of the State—neither statute nor common law. He buys or sells at auction or privately that which the majesty of the law has declared to be property. The victims may writhe in agony, and the tender-hearted spectator may look on with gloomy sorrow and indignation, but it is to no purpose. The promptings of mercy and justice in the heart are only in rebellion against the law of the land."

"The law itself not unfrequently performs the most cruel separations of families, almost without the intervention of individual agency. This happens in the case of persons who die insolvent, or who become so during lifetime. The estate, real and personal, must be disposed of at auction to the highest bidder; and the executor, administrator, sheriff, trustee, or other person whose duty it is to dispose of the property, although he may possess the most humane intentions in the world, cannot prevent the final severance of the most endearing ties of kindred. The illustration given by Mrs. Stowe, in the sale of Uncle Tom by Mr. Shelby, is a very common case. Pecuniary embarrassment is a most fruitful source of misfortune to the slave as well as the master; and instances of family ties broken from this cause are of daily occurrence."

"It often happens that great abuses exist in violation of law, and in spite of the efforts of the authorities to suppress them; such is the case with drunkenness, gambling, and other vices. But here is a law common to all the slave-holding States, which upholds and gives countenance to the wrongdoer, while its blackest terrors are reserved for those who would interpose to protect the innocent. Statesmen of elevated and honourable characters, from a vague notion of state necessity, have defended this law in the abstract, while they would, without hesitation, condemn every instance of its application as unjust."

"In one respect I am glad to see it publicly denied that the families of slaves are separated; for while it argues a disreputable want of candour, it at the same time evinces a commendable sense of shame, and induces the hope that the public opinion at the South will not much longer tolerate this most odious, though not essential part, of the system of slavery."

A general defence of the truthfulness of Mrs. Stowe's book, such as Mr. Goodloe's letter contains, satisfies every candid and disinterested mind, but there are other adversaries and objectors to be met. Accordingly, in the 'Key' are given facts from public or official documents, establishing to the letter every incident of the tale, and presenting the counterparts of every character. Writers even in this country have had the hardihood to deny that it is a common thing for families to be separated, wives from their husbands, or children from their parents. On this and other points at issue, Mrs. Stowe gives proofs of what has taken place, not at any distant period, but at the very time that

she is preparing her present work. The following are a few out of a multitude of advertisements inserted in the course of a few days in two South Carolina papers during December, 1852. A South Carolinian has written a review of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' in 'Fraser's Magazine,' denying the truth of Mrs. Stowe's statements. One of the South Carolina papers bears for its motto 'Be just, and fear not; let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's, thy God's, and truth's.' What does the reviewer say to this?—

"Sheriff's Sales for January 2, 1853.

"By virtue of sundry writs of *fiery facias*, to me directed, will be sold before the Court House in Columbia, within the legal hours, on the first Monday and Tuesday in January next,

"Seventy-four acres of Land, more or less, in Richland District, bounded on the north and east by Lorick's, and on the south and west by Thomas Trapp.

"Also, Ten Head of Cattle, Twenty-five Head of Hogs, and Two Hundred Bushels of Corn, levied on as the property of M. A. Wilson, at the suit of Samuel Gardner v. M. A. Wilson.

"Seven Negroes, named Grace, Frances, Edmund, Charlotte, Emmeline, Thomas and Charles, levied on as the property of Bartholomew Turnipseed, at the suit of A. F. Dubard, J. S. Lever, Bank of the State and others v. B. Turnipseed.

"450 acres of Land, more or less, in Richland District, bounded on the north, &c. &c.

"Large Sale of Real and Personal Property.—Estate Sale.

"On Monday, the (7th) seventh day of February next, I will sell at Auction, without reserve, at the Plantation, near Linden, all the Horses, Mules, Waggon, Farming Utensils, Corn, Fodder, &c.

"And on the following Monday (14th), the fourteenth day of February next, at the Court House, at Linden, in Marengo County, Alabama, I will sell at public auction, without reserve, to the highest bidder,

"110 PRIME AND LIKELY NEGROES, belonging to the Estate of the late John Robinson, of South Carolina.

"Among the Negroes are four valuable Carpenters and a very superior Blacksmith.

"Negroes for Sale.

"By permission of Peter Wylie, Esq., Ordinary for Chester District, I will sell, at public auction, before the Court House, in Chesterville, on the first Monday in February next,

"FORTY LIKELY NEGROES, belonging to the Estate of F. W. Davie.

"W. D. DE SAUSURE, Executor.

"Dec. 23. * 56 * * * †tds.

"Also,

"At same time, a quantity of New Brick, belonging to Estate of A. S. Johnstone, deceased.

"Dec. 21. 53 * * * †tds.

"Great Sale of Negroes and the Saluda Factory, by J. and L. T. Levin.

"On Thursday, December 30, at 11 o'clock, will be sold at the Court House in Columbia,

ONE HUNDRED VALUABLE NEGROES.

"It is seldom such an opportunity occurs as now offers. Among them are only four beyond 45 years old, and none above 50. There are twenty-five prime young men, between 16 and 30; forty of the most likely young women, and as fine a set of children as can be shown!!

"Terms, &c.

Dec. 18, '52."

Commenting on the advertisements, of which these are specimens, Mrs. Stowe says:—

"These papers of South Carolina are not exceptional ones; they may be matched by hundreds of papers from any other State.

"Let the reader now stop one minute, and look over again these two weeks' advertisements. This is not novel-writing—this is fact. See these human

beings tumbled promiscuously out before the public with horses, mules, second-hand buggies, cottonseed, bedsteads, &c. &c.; and Christian ladies, in the same newspaper, saying that they prayerfully study God's Word, and believe their institutions have His sanction! Does he suppose that here, in these two weeks, there have been no scenes of suffering?—Imagine the distress of these families—the nights of anxiety of these mothers and children, wives, and husbands, when these sales are about to take place! Imagine the scenes of the sales! A young lady, a friend of the writer, who spent a winter in Carolina, described to her the sale of a woman and her children. When the little girl, seven years of age, was put on the block, she fell into spasms with fear and excitement. She was taken off—recovered and put back—the spasms came back—three times the experiment was tried, and at last the sale of the child was deferred."

Some startling facts are adduced as to the internal slave trade of the United States, and the horrors of the slave-breeding districts. From Virginia six thousand slaves are annually sent to the south, and the estimated number from Virginia and North Carolina in the past twenty years is three hundred thousand! The 'working-up' system seems to be spreading in the plantations, as much work as possible being got out of the poor negroes in a few years, who are used off on the same principle that the cab-horses of London are worked till fit only for the knacker's yard. It is found that this system is more economical than treating the slaves well, which is only done by those masters whose kindness exceeds their cupidity. Travellers in the southern States see nothing of the dark crimes that are committed in the back plantations. One more advertisement we give, with the characteristic comments of the authoress:—

"ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS REWARD will be paid for the delivery of the said Harry to me at Tosnot Depôt, Edgecombe County, or for his confinement in any jail in the State, so that I can get him; or One Hundred and Fifty Dollars will be given for his head.

"He was lately heard from in Newbern, where he called himself Henry Barnes (or Burns), and will be likely to continue the same name, or assume that of Copage or Farmer. He has a free mulatto woman for a wife, by the name of Sally Bozeman, who has lately removed to Wilmington, and lives in that part of the town called Texas, where he will likely be lurking.

"Masters of vessels are particularly cautioned against harbouring or concealing the said negro on board their vessels, as the full penalty of the law will be rigorously enforced.

"June 29th, 1850. GUILFORD HORN.

"There is an inkling of history and romance about the description of this same Harry, who is thus publicly set up to be killed in any way that any of the negro-hunters of the swamps may think the most piquant and enlivening. It seems he is a carpenter—a powerfully-made man, whose thews and sinews might be a profitable acquisition to himself. It appears also that he has a wife, and the advertiser intimates that possibly he may be caught prowling about somewhere in her vicinity. This indicates sagacity in the writer, certainly. Married men generally have a way of liking the society of their wives; and it strikes us, from what we know of the nature of carpenters here in New England, that Harry was not peculiar in this respect. Let us further notice the portrait of Harry:—*'Eyes deep sunk in his head; forehead very square.'* This picture reminds us of what a persecuting old ecclesiastic once said in the days of the Port-Royalists, of a certain truculent abbot, who stood obstinately to a certain course, in the face of the whole power, temporal and spiritual, of the Romish Church, in spite of fining, imprisoning, starving, whipping, beating, and other enlightening argumentative processes, not wholly peculiar, it seems, to that age. 'You will never subdue that

woman,' said the ecclesiastic, who was a phrenologist before his age; 'she's got a square head, and I have always noticed that people with square heads never can be turned out of their course.' We think it very probable that Harry, with his 'square head,' is just one of this sort. He is probably one of those articles which would be extremely valuable, if the owner could only get the use of him. His head is well enough, but he will use it for himself. It is of no use to any one but the wearer; and the master seems to symbolize this state of things, by offering twenty-five dollars more for the head without the body, than he is willing to give for head, man, and all. Poor Harry! We wonder whether they have caught him yet; or whether the impenetrable thickets, the poisonous miasma, the deadly snakes, and the unwieldy alligators of the swamps, more humane than the slave-hunter, have interposed their uncouth and loathsome forms to guard the only fastness in Carolina where a slave can live in freedom.

"The civilized world may and will ask, in what State this law has been drawn, and passed, and revised, and allowed to appear at the present day on the revised statute-book, and to be executed in the year of Our Lord, 1850, as the above-cited extracts from its most respectable journals show. Is it some heathen, Kurdish tribe, some nest of pirates, some horde of barbarians, where destructive gods are worshipped, and libations to their honour poured from human skulls? The civilized world will not believe it,—but it is actually a fact, that this law has been made, and is still kept in force, by men in every other respect than what relates to their slave code as high-minded, as enlightened, as humane, as any men in Christendom; by citizens of a State which glories in the blood and hereditary Christian institutions of Scotland."

The worst feature of American slavery is that every part of it is sanctioned by law, and the reason why the slave code of that country is worse than that of any ever known in the world is truly said by Mrs. Stowe to be "because the Anglo-Saxons are a more coldly and strictly logical race, and have an unflinching courage to meet the consequences of every premise which they lay down, and to work out an accursed principle, with mathematical accuracy, to its most accursed results." Extracts are given from the codes of various states of the Union, and now that the Fugitive Slave Bill is in operation, the whole nation has taken upon itself the responsibility and disgrace of the worst parts of the system. Extracts are also given from the decision of courts of (what is called) justice, and from the resolutions of synods and convocations of churches, in defence of slavery, of which Mrs. Stowe, after presenting the documents in detail, gives the following summary:—

"1. That slavery is an innocent and lawful relation, as much as that of parent and child, husband and wife, or any other lawful relation of society. (Harmony Pres., S. C.)

"2. That it is consistent with the most fraternal regard for the good of the slave. (Charleston Union Pres., S. C.)

"3. That masters ought not to be disciplined for selling slaves without their consent. (New School Pres. Church, Petersburg, Va.)

"4. That the right to buy, sell, and hold men for purposes of gain, was given by express permission of God. (James Smylie and his Presbyteries.)

"5. That the laws which forbid the education of the slave are right, and meet the approbation of the reflecting part of the Christian community. (Ibid.)

"6. That the fact of slavery is not a question of morals at all, but is purely one of political economy. (Charleston Baptist Association.)

"7. The right of masters to dispose of the time of their slaves has been distinctly recognised by the Creator of all things. (Ibid.)

"8. That slavery, as it exists in these United States, is not a moral evil. (Georgia Conference, Methodist.)

"9. That, without a new revelation from Heaven, no man is entitled to pronounce slavery wrong.

"10. That the separation of slaves by sale should be regarded as separation by death, and the parties allowed to marry again. (Shiloh Baptist Ass., and Savannah River Ass.)

"11. That the testimony of coloured members of the churches shall not be taken against a white person. (Methodist Church.)"

When such are the principles of the religious teachers of the Americans, we need not be surprised at the opinions of their legislators and politicians, far less at those of the mass of the people.

As Mrs. Stowe's book will soon, through cheap editions, be in the hands of hundreds of thousands of readers in this country, we deem it unnecessary to say more as to its contents. The well-merited popularity of the authoress, and the importance of the subject, will secure for the work an immense circulation, though the publishers in their advertisement assume rather much when they say that the mere fact of the vast sale of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' "renders Mrs. Stowe's position identical with that of the joint authors of our own country." It is a common mercantile idea that the merit of any work is proportional to its popularity. Some of the most widely circulated books in England are of a very inferior stamp. On the other hand, the valuable treatises of some of the first men in science and literature often fail to remunerate either authors or publishers. But to Mrs. Stowe we willingly concede the praise of genius and art directed to the noblest purposes of philanthropy. Rarely has any writer of fiction exercised so great practical influence on public opinion in the cause of freedom, morality, and religion.

We must not conclude without adverting to the enterprise and spirit of the publishers and printers of this first English edition of the 'Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin.' On Tuesday, the 15th of this month, not a line of the work had been set in type, and on the 19th the publishers issued the book, with the justifiable boast that "the completion of a handsome 8vo volume of upwards of five hundred pages in less than four days, is perhaps unparalleled in the curiosities of literature."

NOTICES.

Claverston. A Tale. By Charles Mitchell Charles, author of 'Hamon and Catar; or, The Two Races.' Saunders and Otley.

WHEN the tale of 'Hamon and Catar' came out, we were struck with it as a work of genius, superior to the ordinary books of fiction which pass through our hands. The story was one of the old world before the flood, a period affording ample scope for strange incidents and imaginative characters. But the merit of the author chiefly consisted in his presenting pictures of life in which every reader feels a warm interest, the accidents of time and circumstances never concealing the deep and unchanging forms and features of human nature, which is substantially the same in all ages and countries of the world. The antediluvians of the two races are represented as men and women with like passions with ourselves. The tale is in the form of autobiographical recollections of Cain, the murderer and wanderer, who lived to see many events in the early world. Mr. Charles, in the preface to the present volume, alludes to the unfavourable circumstances under which that work appeared, being published anonymously during the opening week of the Great Exhibition of 1851, when matters of far more immediate importance than an antediluvian tale failed to attract public attention. We are glad that the author was not discouraged by what

may have appeared want of success in his first literary effort. In the new tale of 'Claverston,' considerable talent is shown in a different style of writing. It is a story of our own time, in which the events of a few days are presented with powerful dramatic effect. The author rightly calls it a tale of heat and hurry, of melodrama and excitement. Any idea of the crowded incidents of the book we are unable to give in a brief notice, but the main action turns on the following events:—The proprietor of Claverston House, the father of the narrator of the tale, is first described, a man of darkly mysterious character, who from some unknown cause lives in extreme seclusion, and cannot bear the presence of his only son. James Nicol, the son, chiefly lives in London, and though he sees a few of the former friends of the family, he can gather nothing as to the strange mystery of his father's conduct. An accident, through which he saved the life of an old Mr. De Laming while boating on the Thames, introduces him to two young ladies who were under charge of the gentleman whom he had rescued from drowning. Acquaintance is followed by love, and an engagement with the eldest of the sisters, Emma Douay. Nicol knew that he had an independent fortune, but after a time he thought it necessary to apprise his father of his purpose. With difficulty an interview was obtained, during which the mention of the name of Douay, and the declaration of his engagement, threw the father into a fit, which nearly cost him his life. On his recovery he gave a solemn charge against the match, as one that would inevitably lead to misery and crime. In his perplexity James Nicol finds a kind and wise counsellor in the daughter of an early friend of his father. Old Mr. Macgregor and his daughter Frances are two of the best drawn characters in the book. Without tracing the course of the narrative, suffice it to say that another interview with the father was obtained, in which the revelation of the mystery was made. Old Mr. Nicol had in a moment of jealous passion killed the father of the girl whom his son now wished to marry. Mr. Douay was then a widower, and Nicol thought he had gained the heart of a woman to whom he was himself attached. He was wrong in that suspicion, and he married the girl. Though the cause of the death of Douay was never known, his body being found in a ravine in Switzerland, down which he was supposed to have fallen, guilt haunted the unhappy murderer. Unable to keep the secret of his sorrow from his wife, the shock killed her soon after she had given birth to her son. The dark part of the story shows how "the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon the children," according to the threatened judgment of the Scripture. But before the old man died he looked to the bright promise that immediately follows the threat, telling of "mercy shown unto thousands," and in the evening time there was light. For the guilt of a father he saw there was other atonement than the punishment of a child who had nothing to do with his crime, and the dying man gladly sanctioned the union of the lovers. The main story is interrupted by several stirring and amusing episodes, especially connected with the rival courtship of the second sister, Amelia Douay, by Captain Langton, who ultimately won her, and Harry Vincent, who was unsuccessful, in spite of an abduction and other violent proceedings, in his desperate suit. Mr. Charles certainly manages to crowd an unusual number of incidents into his brief plot. The occasional comments and criticisms on the literature, politics, and topics of the day, give pleasant relief to the narrative. We think the author capable of higher efforts than this tale. But those who seek melodramatic excitement in what they read will find it in 'Claverston.' It is a tale which would please the most go-ahead Yankee, and might endanger the wits of a staid Dutchman.

The Military Encyclopedia, a Technical, Biographical, and Historical Dictionary of the Military Sciences. By J. H. Stocqueler, Esq. Allen and Co.

THE title of this work sufficiently indicates the nature of its contents. It is arranged alphabetically, and embraces all topics with which military

men are expected to be most conversant. Mr. Stocqueler is author of many works of established reputation, and the present volume is one of the most valuable of his literary labours. A great range of publications has been brought under contribution for the materials of this Encyclopedia, which will be an acceptable work with many military men, who have neither the means nor the convenience for possessing a voluminous library. There are errors in the work, which must be corrected in future editions. For instance, it was not the 37th, but the 35th regiment of native infantry which distinguished itself in the heroic defence of Jellalabad under Sir Robert Sale, and formed part of what the Governor-General designated "the illustrious garrison." But in general the book may be relied on for its accuracy, and the slightest inspection will show the variety and value of its contents. While it will form a useful *rade mecum* for young officers, it is also a book of instructive and entertaining reading for civilians.

The Society of Friends. A Domestic Narrative Illustrating the Peculiar Doctrines held by the Disciples of George Fox. By Mrs. Greer, author of 'Quakerism; or, The Story of my Life.' 2 vols. Saunders and Otley.

MRS. GREER returns to her attack on Quakerism, and in this domestic narrative makes the Reubens and Ruths of the Society look as ridiculous as she can. The oligarchy of "the weighty Friends" is vehemently denounced. In confirmation of the statements in her former work, and of the incidents introduced in the present tale, copious extracts are given from the works of George Fox, Barclay's 'Apology,' and other writings of authority or repute in the Society. There is no doubt much truth in Mrs. Greer's statements, and considerable point in her satire, but we cannot approve the spirit of virulence with which her book is written. The zeal of a convert is proverbial, and Mrs. Greer may be actuated by high devotedness to the Church of England which she has joined, just as the ex-Quaker M.P., Mr. Lucas, editor of the 'Tablet,' is now a more devoted Papist than any member of the House of Commons born and bred in the Romish faith. But Mrs. Greer displays unseemly and unprecedented rancour against the harmless Society from which she rejoices to have escaped. If the documents and extracts adduced in the present work are authentic statements of the tenets of the disciples of George Fox, all we can say is, that the practice of the Friends is far better than their principles, and those who pride themselves on holding a purer faith may well be ashamed into manifesting a spirit more estimable, and works more abundant and practical, in proportion to the alleged superiority of their creed. In reviewing Mrs. Greer's former work, 'Quakerism; or, The Story of my Life,' then published anonymously, we frankly stated our opinion of the author ('L.G.' 1851, p. 494). The present work confirms the estimate then formed, nor do we think that much harm will be done to the Friends by the new revelations of the clever but garrulous and severe-tempered old lady who has gone out from them, after being "forty years a member of the Society."

Notes, Critical and Explanatory, on the Prophecies of Jonah and Hosea. By the Rev. William Drake, M.A. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

TO Biblical students, and especially to those desirous of improvement in the knowledge of the Hebrew language, these 'Notes' on two of the minor prophets will be found extremely useful. Mr. Drake has done for the books of Jonah and Micah what is frequently done for the works of classic authors, with the view to their being read by students as distinguished by scholars, giving notes, critical and explanatory, by which the intelligent study of the text may be facilitated. At the same time the general elucidations of difficult or obscure passages render the book one that may be consulted with advantage by the mere English reader. To the historical references in the prefaces and notes, additional interest is given by the recent researches of Colonel Rawlinson, Dr. Layard, M. Botta, and others, with whose discoveries and researches Mr. Drake shows himself to be familiar.

Whether as a contribution to Biblical literature, or for educational use by those studying Hebrew, Mr. Drake's work is valuable. Doctrinal comments are rarely given, as being alien from the purpose of the book; but where opinions are offered or quoted the expositions display soundness of judgment, as the critical notes are creditable to the author's scholarship and research.

The Religious Condition of Christendom. A Series of Papers read at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Evangelical Alliance. Edited by the Rev. Edward Steane, D.D. Nisbet and Co.

IN 1851, advantage was taken of the great conflux of strangers in London to hold a special conference of the members of the Evangelical Alliance, the proceedings of which are reported in the present volume, edited by one of the secretaries of that religious association. The papers embrace a variety of important subjects, and are contributed by men, some of whom are of high distinction in the literary as well as the religious world. Of the recent history and present condition of Popery, a masterly sketch is given, by Principal Cunningham of New College, Edinburgh. On the religious state of Germany the distinguished writer Dr. Krummacker gives an interesting statement, and Professor Tholuck, of Halle, adds some remarks on the German universities. Similar papers on the state of religion and education in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Piedmont, Holland, Algeria, and other places, are contributed by learned professors and pious divines from the several countries. The paper on the United States of America, by Dr. Baird, of New York, is one of special interest. The volume is one of great value from the amount of statistical information it presents on the educational, ecclesiastical, and religious condition of Christendom. The work in its general style and tone is worthy of the high reputation of many of the contributors, and of the subjects to which these papers refer.

SUMMARY.

THE third edition of Professor Hunt's valuable *Manual of Photography*, forming a volume of the new issue of the 'Encyclopædia Metropolitana,' contains much additional matter, and brings down the history and description of photographic art to the most recent discoveries and researches. The arrangement of the work is more systematic, and the treatment of the subject more complete, than in the former editions. The sections on the Waxed Paper and the Collodion Processes, and the appended chapter on the Production of Pictures for the Stereoscope, contain entirely new matter. Throughout the work important additions are inserted, and a large number of engravings and diagrams increase the practical value of the manual, which is the most complete text-book on every department of photographic science and art.

In the *Library Edition of the Waverley Novels*, the last volume contains 'The Abbot.' A portrait of Mary Queen of Scots forms the frontispiece, the romantic story of her escape from Lochleven Castle being one of the chief incidents of the novel.

A lecture delivered to the Church of England Young Men's Society at Islington, by the Rev. Robert Wheeler Bush, M.A., Head-Master of the Islington Proprietary School, is published under the title of *England's Two Great Military Captains, Marlborough and Wellington*. It is an ably written lecture, and what we like in it, as contrasted with other publications called forth by the same event, is, that there is no depreciation of the great hero of former days in order to magnify the fame of Wellington. Of Marlborough's greatness, both as a civilian and a soldier, Mr. Bush speaks in accordance with the facts of history, disregarding the evil rumours with which political enemies have sought to cloud his fame. Lord Chesterfield said that there was "nothing shining in the genius of Marlborough." The same might have been even more truly said of Wellington; but they both had qualities which led to nobler and more enduring greatness than the superficial brilliancy which could dazzle men like Chesterfield. Mr. Bush's

lecture is a very interesting biographical sketch and historical parallel.

An educational work of a superior kind, by George J. Manning, is entitled *Outlines of the History of the Middle Ages*, a period of history which is usually passed over very summarily in school instruction, and of which most persons have but crude and superficial notions. The ecclesiastical affairs of mediæval times have of late attracted considerable attention, but of the facts of general history in what are commonly called 'the dark ages,' little is known even by those who have had a liberal education. The period embraced by Mr. Manning's work extends from A.D. 400 to the close of the fifteenth century. With the researches of the best historians, and the philosophical writings of Guizot and others on the rise of modern civilization, the author shows himself well acquainted, and gives an able summary of the leading facts of the history of the Gotho-Germanic nations, as well as of the countries nearer the seat of the empire of Rome and Byzantium. The history of the Church and of the feudal system, is traced, and the progress of the European nations towards the civilization of modern times, which was ushered in by the invention of printing, by the discovery of the New World, and of the new route to the East, and by the reformation of religion at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Heads of analysis, a synchronic table, and questions for examination, increase the value of the book for educational purposes. *The Synoptical Euclid*, by Samuel Good, Master of the Mathematical School in Pembroke Dockyard, contains the first four books of Euclid, according to the text of Dr. Robert Simson, each proposition arranged so as to render plain, as far as typography can effect, the several steps of the demonstration, and thus to facilitate geometrical study. Mr. Good's plan is very well adapted to the end proposed, and will be found useful for beginners. *The Pupil Teacher's Historical Geography*, by A. Boardman, presents a summary of facts, arranged alphabetically under various heads. As an elementary manual for young people, the book combines the information of a brief gazetteer with historical notices of the places, and tables of the dates of some events most worthy of remembrance. Mr. Boardman ought to have given the dates of other events besides those of war, the tables being mere lists of battles.

The writer of a tract, *What is Memerism?* maintains that it is an occult art, practised under direct influence of evil spirits, and therefore to be avoided, as contrary to morality and religion. The author does not deny that there is some natural imponderable substance which is the medium of the manifestations, but affirms that there is also a spiritual and supernatural power acting on the bodily senses and on the mental faculties. The writer's ideas are unworthy of notice by physiologists, but they suggest some curious thoughts as to the relations of mind and matter, and the close connexion between the visible and the spiritual world. The first number of a new monthly serial, *Handley Cross; or, Mr. Jorrocks's Hunt*, by the author of 'Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour,' is written in the style peculiar to sporting readers, and is amusing to others for its broad scenes of English country and provincial life. The opening description of Michael Hardey presents a character of times now nearly gone by. The story has the advantage of being illustrated by John Leech. Under the title of *Freedom national, Slavery sectional*, the speech of the Hon. Charles Sumner, on his motion for repealing the Fugitive Slave Bill, in the Senate of the United States, is republished in this country. Mr. Sumner argues that slavery is a system dependent on the legislation of each particular state, and that the cases of fugitive slaves belong to the common law of each state, and should be tried by jury, instead of by commissioners as under the Fugitive Slave Act. Against the illegality as well as the injustice of the bill, Mr. Sumner powerfully pleads, and shows that it is opposed to the constitution of the Union. This line of argument is the most likely to prevail ultimately in altering the recent legislation which has made slavery a national

institution in the American Republic, instead of a local institution in certain States of the Union. Under the title of *The Light of the Forge; or, Counsels drawn from the Sickness of E. M.*, the Rev. William Harrison, rector of Birch, has published a biographical sketch of a young person of singular intelligence and piety, the daughter of the village blacksmith. The girl had received nothing more than the rudimentary education of a dame's school, yet her letters display thought and feeling little to be expected from one in such a station of life. It shows the power of scriptural knowledge in enlarging the mind as well as influencing the heart. The malady under which she suffered was a nervous disorder, presenting some curious physiological facts, which have brought the case before the notice of medical men.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adventures (The) of a Salmon, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Amy Rose, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Anna Lee, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Annual (The) of Scientific Discovery, 1853, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Arnold's (T. K.) Bacche of Euripides, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
Bickersteth's Family Prayers, 7th edition, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Birks (Rev. T. R.) on Rationalism, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Boner's (C.) Chamois Hunting, 8vo, cloth, 18s.
Bourne's (B. F.) Captive in Patagonia, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Brewster's Optics, new edition, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Brown's Thirty-Nine Articles, Vol. 2, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
Charity and the Clergy, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Crawford's (Miss) French Cookery, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Drury's (A. H.) Friends and Fortunes, 2nd edition, 6s.
Encyclopædia Britannica, Vol. 1, Part 2, sewed, 5s.
Gerstacker's Journey round the World, 3 vols., £1 11s. 6d.
Goethe's Faust, with Copious Notes by F. Leblan, 15s.
Hannover's Construction and Use of the Microscope, 5s.
Holland's (H. T.) Common Law Procedure Act, 2nd ed., 8s.
Initials (The), new edition, 1 vol. post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
James's Young Woman's Guide to Immortality, 12mo, 4s.
King of Pride, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Longwoods (The) of the Grange, 3 vols. p. 8vo, £1 11s. 6d.
Low's Annual Catalogue of Books published in 1852, 2s. 6d.
Malpa's Builder's Pocket Book of Reference, 18mo, 5s.
Markham's (Mrs.) England, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Germany, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Marshall's Odds and Ends, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Meditations of Descartes, translated from the Latin, 4s.
Mitchison's Handbook of Songs of Scotland, new ed., 2s. 6d.
Moran's Footpath and Highway, crown 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Morell's (J. D.) History of Psychology, Part 1, 7s. 6d.
Morris's Religion and Business, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Mossman and Banister's Australia, post 8vo, 10s. 6d.
Nunn's Art of Dyeing, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Needle (The) Volume, 4to, boards, 3s. 6d.
Nunn's (T. W.) Inflammation of the Breast, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
Patmore's (C.) Tamerton Church Tower, &c., 12mo, 6s.
Powe's (T. A.) Reconstruction of the Liturgy, 3s. 6d.
Reeves (W.) Brief Account of, 2nd edition, 18mo, cloth, 1s.
Robertson's Incidents of First Burmese War, 1 vol., 8s. 6d.
Scott's (P.) Thomas à Becket, and other Poems, cloth, 5s.
Sloane's (S.) Model Architect, Vol. 1, 4to, cloth, £2 2s.
Stoddart's Angler's Companion, new edition, p. 8vo, 7s. 6d.
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AN ASSYRIAN CONJECTURE.

March 21st.

"IN reading over the invaluable work of Dr. Layard, reviewed in your last two numbers, a conjecture has occurred to me of so plausible a nature (at least as it appears to me), that I cannot but think it must have been already suggested and published elsewhere. My Assyrian reading being, however, very limited, I am not able to ascertain whether it has been so, and therefore beg leave to communicate it, trusting that, if in fact there is no novelty in it, I shall be easily excused, as it has occurred to me quite independently. The emblem of the Assyrian empire was a bull with a human head—such emblems of gigantic size stood on each side of the gateway of Sennacherib's palace (see *frontispiece*). For this reason, doubtless, and with great propriety, Dr. Layard has stamped this emblem upon the cover of his volume. Now, the question which at once suggests itself, and to which I wish to offer a probable answer, is the following—For what reason was this singular and extraordinary form the chosen emblem of the Assyrian empire?

First, then, let me observe that the supreme deity of the Assyrians was named Ashur. At page 629, we see him standing first as "the king of the circle of the great gods." At page 141, Sennacherib declares that he has conquered through his help. At page 456, prisoners are slain for blaspheming Ashur; and in that inscription two words

occur, which are, as Mr. Layard declares, "almost purely Hebrew." A dialect of Hebrew was therefore spoken at the Assyrian court, and upon that foundation I think we may securely proceed.

"Now, the name of Assyria, in the Hebrew Bible, is Ashur, the same with that of the principal deity of the nation. For example, in the book of Ezra, we read of "Eashraddon, King of Ashur." And Dr. Layard states, that in the cuneiform writing there is no difference between the name of the deity and that of the Assyrian nation, but that they are both expressed by the same monogram; and therefore, in order to explain the symbol of the bull with a human head, we may reasonably have recourse to the Hebrew language, of which the Assyrian seems to have been a dialect. Now, it is a remarkable fact that in Hebrew, ASH signifies a man, and SHUR signifies a bull, as may be seen by any one who will take the trouble of referring to 'Gesenius's Lexicon,' page 49 and 991 (Latin edition of 1833).

"Consequently, ASH-SHUR or ASHUR, signifies a man-bull, and that composite figure naturally became a symbol expressive, in the first place, of the name Ashur, and in the second place of the Assyrian empire itself. Let not any one judge of this matter by the rules of modern taste exclusively, but rather remember the practice of antiquity and of the middle ages, which delighted in such verbal allusions. For instance, the symbol of Rhodes was a rose (Ρόδον), simply on account of the resemblance in the sound of the name. And something similar to this, the use of *cutting arms*, prevailed extensively in the middle ages. I will add no more at present on the subject of this curious Assyrian emblem, for fear of occupying too much of your space."

"H. F. T."

This is an ingenious speculation, though we cannot ourselves assent to it. Our correspondent is right in stating that *resh* or *ash* in Hebrew means man, and *shur* bull; yet it does not follow, unless Hebrew were like German, that the result of the combination means *man-bull*; and we believe such a combination to be at variance with the genius of the language, not only of Hebrew, but of all Semitic nations. The writer must show, moreover, that the Assyrians spoke Hebrew. That they spoke a language cognate with it is certain—so do the Danes and English, yet neither nation would readily understand the other. There are many critics who doubt altogether the rendering of the word Ashur, where it first occurs in Genesis x., and think it is not a proper name at all. 'Ashur' may mean *he went out*, and it may mean Assyria as well as Ashur. For ourselves, we incline to think the latter is the real meaning; but there are many who hold a different view. Mere etymology, depending on apparent resemblances of sounds, is a very fertile cause of error.

EXCAVATIONS AT NINEVEH.

"Thames Villa, Hammersmith, March 21.

"I WAS not aware, till I saw it mentioned in your paper of Saturday, (*ante*, p. 270,) that Mr. Badger claims having suggested the excavations at Nineveh. The claim is a pure absurdity. The mound of Nabbi Yunus was excavated in the time of Mr. Rich, formerly resident at Baghdad, as far back as in 1821. In Mr. Rich's work, 'Narrative of a Residence in Kurdistan,' &c., vol. ii., p. 31, will be found an account of the objects obtained from the excavations, among which were bricks and pieces of gypsum, with inscriptions in the cuneiform character, now in the British Museum. The excavations were discontinued from the fear of undermining the houses. Mr. Rich also notices at p. 37, that the mound of Kouyunjik had been dug into, and that they saw masonry at the place. 'Stones and bricks,' he adds, 'are dug or ploughed up everywhere.' At p. 39 he notices an immense bas-relief, representing men and animals, as having been dug up in a high portion of the wall. At p. 40 he again notices diggings that laid bare large hewn stones with bitumen adhering to them. There were others groping in the mound long before Mr. Badger went there." "W. F. AINSWORTH."

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

We have this week reluctantly to notice a cause of some importance to authors and publishers, which was tried on Thursday before Judge Alderson and a special jury at the Assizes at Kingston. It was an action brought by the Rev. F. Metcalfe, of Lincoln College, Oxford, a gentleman of fair literary repute, and known among scholars by his translations of the German classical novels, 'Gallus' and 'Charicles,' against Messrs. John W. Parker and Son, publishers, of West Strand, for the recovery of a sum of £200, agreed to be paid for a translation of Bähr's 'History of Roman Literature.' Owing to the ready sale, in Messrs. Parker's hands, of the works just alluded to, one having passed through two editions, and the other being out of print, Mr. Metcalfe proposed to undertake a translation of Dr. Bähr's well-known 'History.' It consists in the German of two closely-printed octavo volumes, of about 1700 pages, and the price of Mr. Metcalfe's labours, £200, was agreed to be paid without any stipulation as to time. It occupied the translator four years. Towards the close of 1850 the manuscript was delivered to the publishers; but, "owing to the Great Exhibition," and perhaps for other reasons, Messrs. Parker delayed putting it to press. After the lapse of a year and a half, during which period a promise had been made of an 'early proof,' Mr. Metcalfe thought it time to request payment of a hundred pounds on account of his bargain. No sort of objection had been hitherto made to the translation. The 'Quarterly Review' having pronounced Mr. Metcalfe's style to be "clear, vigorous, and fluent," the publishers probably relied on this as a guarantee for his competency to perform the task. When pressed, however, for a moiety of the *honorarium*, Messrs. Parker returned the whole of the manuscript, submitting that it was unsuitable for publication, and declining to pay for it. Mr. Metcalfe wrote, on receipt of this, in a temperate and gentlemanly manner, to the effect that he must refer the question to his legal adviser. Not so, however; Messrs. John W. Parker and Son, who replied in a tone of flippant abuse which rendered any further correspondence impossible. Several literary men were summoned on both sides, but not all were called. Their evidence only referred respectively to the merits and demerits of the translation, and the latter were of too critical a kind to affect the integrity of the bargain in a commercial point of view. The witnesses for Messrs. Parker laboured hard, and not without success, to find errors in the translation, and it was shown beyond question to have been executed in a careless manner; but Mr. Metcalfe had witnesses ready to prove, if necessary, that his manuscript was not more imperfect than the 'copy' of many eminent writers, and that it could not fairly be tested by exact criticism before passing through the press. The plaintiff's counsel, at all events, satisfied the jury that "those respectable Romans, Mr. Tacitus, Mr. Catullus, and M. T. Cicero, Esq., had not been sufficiently maltreated" to disannul the contract, and a verdict was recorded in Mr. Metcalfe's favour before the judge had finished his summing up. It is much to be regretted that the case was ever brought into a court of justice, and we regret that, for the protection of literary men, and for the general purity of the publishing trade, we have felt called upon to notice it.

The whole of the letters from Washington to General Reed, about which so much controversy has arisen between Lord Mahon and Mr. Jared Sparks, have been published at Philadelphia by Mr. William Reed, the biographer of the General. The materials are now complete for forming an accurate judgment on the points at issue. It appears that in the year 1834 Mr. Reed forwarded to Mr. Sparks copies of the letters, for insertion in his edition of the works of Washington. Mr. Sparks omitted some passages, and altered the phraseology of others. In 1847, Mr. Reed published the memoir of General Reed, his ancestor, printing the Washington letters from the originals,

making only occasional alterations of grammar and spelling. In 1851, Lord Mahon, in the sixth volume of his 'History of England,' noticed the difference of text between the letters as given by Mr. Sparks and Mr. Reed, severely blaming the former, and accusing him of unfaithfulness as an editor. These charges we have examined in detail, and expressed our opinion on the whole subject, as far as we had means of judging, ('L. G.,' 1852, p. 651, and *ante*, p. 178.) Mr. Reed has now reprinted the letters, and has had them carefully collated, so that the differences may be noted, and these are given *seriatim* in the present work. Our judgment is completely confirmed by the publication of the letters. Mr. Sparks is acquitted of the grave charges at first adduced by Lord Mahon, but no defence can be made for the frequent alteration, which must be ascribed to undue partiality and a morbid literary taste. As we stated before, Mr. Sparks ought to have left the plain homely language of Washington as he found it, instead of adapting the manuscript to his ideas of taste and propriety. But after all, the alterations are few and trifling, and in no way affect the substance of the correspondence. It is to be regretted that Lord Mahon did not ascertain the real state of the matter before making charges against Mr. Sparks, the chief of which he withdrew after receiving an explanation. Mr. Reed is himself not altogether guiltless in the matter of needless alterations of the original letters. He ought to have printed *literatim*, putting his own improvements of grammar or spelling in brackets or on the margin.

Mr. Henry, the Bow-street magistrate, has this week delivered his decision in the case of the 'Potteries' Free Press and Weekly Narrative of Current Events,' charged with being an illegal publication. The chief defence was, that many other papers are suffered to appear which equally contravene the terms of the Act, which is directed against "any paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences, printed for sale, and published periodically at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days." As the publisher was misled by the impunity of other papers, to which he erroneously supposed his was similar, the magistrate fined him in the mitigated penalty of 5*l*. Mr. Parry, the defendant's counsel, intimated his intention of appealing to the Court of Quarter Sessions. It is too bad that such proceedings are allowed to take place in police courts. The present state of the law is vague and uncertain, and it is the duty of the Government to put the newspaper stamp regulations on a more intelligible if not a more liberal footing. To interdict the sale of 'public news,' except at monthly intervals, is impossible, for all announcements, literary, scientific, or artistic, may come under that designation. The word 'public' might be changed to 'political,' but many social questions have immediate and important bearings on political affairs. All this difficulty will probably hasten the repeal of the stamp duty altogether, except for postal transmission.

Under the name of "The Milton Club" an association has been formed for purposes of a somewhat miscellaneous kind. The members are described as 'evangelical nonconformists of all sections,' rather a wide class in the present day. Premises have been purchased in Ludgate-hill, to be formed into a club-house, a public hall, and offices. The prospectus says that "the house is to furnish (besides dining, coffee, and drawing-rooms, library, news, pamphlet, and committee-rooms,) a repository for all that may be necessary or useful to the nonconformist body, e.g., arrangements for collecting statistics connected with nonconformists, its relations to government and the established church, records of religious societies, parliamentary and mercantile information," &c. From the names that appear as the chief promoters of this undertaking we fear that the Milton Club may prove a nest of political and ecclesiastical agitators, imbued with little of the spirit of the great man whose name they appropriate. The prominent points in the prospectus of the club are such as only a narrow section of Milton's admirers can in these times sympathize

with. We cannot but regret that a name of which every Englishman is proud should run the risk of being desecrated by becoming a party watchword.

The subscription for the Art-Union is announced as about to close for this year. The popularity of the Association continues. At the dinner of the Artists' Benevolent Fund, at the Freemasons' Tavern last Saturday, Mr. G. Godwin, in reply to the toast, 'Prosperity to the Art-Union of London,' gave some interesting details as to its financial progress, and pointed out the benefits it had conferred on art and artists. The first year's subscription amounted only to 500*l.*, the second 750*l.*, the third 1300*l.*, the fourth 2200*l.*, the fifth 5500*l.*, and the sixth 13,000*l.* The amount of subscriptions had culminated at 17,800*l.*, and then subsided into a settled average income of 12,000*l.* The Association had already spent at least 170,000*l.* for the encouragement of art. The prizeholders had expended about 90,000*l.* in the purchase of pictures, the Council about 50,000*l.* on these and other works of art. For pictures purchased from the Royal Academy alone the sum of 34,291*l.* had been paid. Engravers had received 16,000*l.* These facts prove the benefits of the Art-Union as a medium for the encouragement of art. As in literature, so in the fine arts, the days have passed when trust was only put in rich patrons, and artists of merit may now safely look to the support of the general public.

The Reverend Father Secchi, director of the Observatory at Rome, has announced to the different observatories of Europe the discovery of a new comet by him on the 6th of this month. It is in the constellation of the Hare, at a short distance from μ , and its position was ascertained to be as follows:—

Mean time at Rome.	R. Ascen.	Declin.
March 6, sh. 55' 42"	4° 52' 45" 78	15° 50' 47" 2
9 43 51	4 52 39 84	15 45 41 7
7, 8 39 25	4 50 24 59	13 31 35

The new comet is visible by a telescope of small power: it has a hairy tail of no great length, and the nucleus is rather luminous. Father Secchi has also reported the discovery, at about the same time, of some faint nebulae in the constellation of Orion, not indicated in Herschel's catalogue. Mr. Hind has this week reported in 'The Times' the appearance of the comet. It is supposed to be the comet of 1664, which Hevelius described in his 'Cometographia,' and Lubienietzki in his 'Theatrum Cometicum.' Its period of revolution is 188 years, its mean distance a little greater than the planet Neptune, its greatest distance or aphelion six millions of miles. The tail is not of the magnitude described by Hevelius, extending now to only twenty degrees. This may seem to confirm the opinion as to the gradual dissipation of the nebulous matter of these bodies, or rather its absorption into the nucleus. On the 19th of March, at 8 P.M., the right ascension was 4h. 36m., and the north declination 2° 48'. The former changes very little at present, the declination increases at the rate of 20 to 30 minutes of arc daily. If this turns out to be the comet of 1664, the observations will be of importance, from the minute details which have been recorded of its last appearance.

We hear from Paris that there is reason to believe that the correspondence between Benjamin Constant, the well-known newspaper writer, parliamentary orator, and *littérateur*, and the equally well-known Madame de Récamier, will shortly be given to the world. It is chiefly of a sentimental character, but is represented to be peculiarly interesting. It may be remembered that some years ago a literary lady, to whom it was confided by Madame Récamier, proposed to publish it; but on the application of the families of the two correspondents, she was prevented from doing so by a positive prohibition of one of the Law Courts.

The proposed reduction of colonial postage to the uniform rate of sixpence per half-ounce, as announced by the postmaster-general, has not satisfied the 'Colonial and International Postage Association.' A meeting of the council was held on the 15th inst., when resolutions were adopted, expressing dissatisfaction with the proposed measure,

and declaring their purpose of continuing the agitation of the subject until the charge should be reduced to twopence on each letter. The Association represents the proposed charge of fourpence for the half-ounce of ocean transit as enormous, being nearly 60*l.* a hundred weight, many times the amount of ordinary freightage. It is urged that a sixpenny rate will not put a stop to the extensive evasions now practised, and that the revenue will therefore not be benefited, while the opportunity is lost for forwarding high social and political objects, connected with the extraordinary emigration from the mother country. The views of the Association must prevail sooner or later, and there is no valid reason why they should not be carried into effect at once. The whole income of the colonial postage department is under 200,000*l.*—a trifling sum when the interests at issue are considered. Any temporary deficiency even of this small sum would be speedily made up by the vast increase of letters at the low rate.

We are happy to observe that the scheme of evening classes for the benefit of those whose time is at their disposal, through the early closing movement, is vigorously carried out. At Crosby-Hall, in the City, there are metropolitan classes which are well attended. A lecture was lately given by Thomas Hugo, F.S.A., on Gothic ecclesiastical architecture, with special reference to public buildings in the metropolis, which presented much historical and artistic information on the subject. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. J. Hankey, jun., presided, and several influential City men, by their attendance, evinced their cordial sympathy with the system of instruction provided by these evening classes.

The President of the Geographical Society, Sir Roderick Murchison, gave the first of his annual *soirées* on Monday, at his residence in Belgrave-square. Among the company present were the Austrian, Danish, Portuguese, and Russian ambassadors, the leading arctic navigators, and many distinguished geographers and scientific men. Of the works exhibited, we noticed a Diagram of the Great Isthmus of Central America, by Mr. Arrow-smith; Survey of Darien Route, by Mr. L. Gisborne; Diagram of Africa, by Mr. Petermann; works presented by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington; Stansbury's Expedition to the Great Salt Lake, with Maps; Richardson's Mission to Lake Tehad; Panoramic View of Bogotá; Scenes in Ethiopia, by M. Bernatz; Mr. Brierley's Drawings of H.B.M.'s sloop Rattlesnake discovering the entrance through the Coral Reefs of the Louisiade Archipelago; Schoolcraft's Indian Tribes of North America, &c.

The Norwegian Government has spontaneously credited the Ethnological Department of the Crystal Palace with a certain sum to be expended for such articles as can be best procured in Scandinavia, on the understanding that such other articles as can be best procured in Great Britain be forwarded to the Museum of the University of Christiania, in the way of exchange or payment in kind. The Directors too of the Ethnological Museum of Copenhagen have expressed their readiness to effect exchanges.

A correspondent informs us that the conversion of the herb *agilops* into wheat, noticed in our last as being the discovery of M. Fabre, a gardener of Ayde, was pointed out by a very able though little-known botanist, Major Munro, at the last meeting of the British Association at Belfast. At the end of Mr. Huxley's 'Report' may be found a short account of Major Munro's communication.

Dr. Lindley has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, for the section of Rural Economy. He obtained an unanimity of votes—a rare thing. Messrs. Blanchard and Lea, says the 'New York Literary World,' have separated from Miss Strickland's 'Queens of England,' to form a distinct volume, 'The Wives of Henry VIII.,' announcing that they are sufficiently numerous for the purpose, while their history is varied and interesting. It is a volume, continues our contemporary, that will find its way to the boudoir and drawing-room.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

ALLUSION has already been made to the numerous contributions in landscape by the family of Williams. The outlay of time, skill, and thought, that has been expended upon these subjects demand some notice at the hands of every spectator; but few things are more disagreeable than to see elevated art reducing itself to mere handicraft repetition. We will take, as foremost in the rank, Mr. Sidney R. Percy's paintings. Who does not know that smooth, glassy lake, that clear-cut bold outline of mountain, that dark mass of tint below, which represents, truly enough, it must be confessed, the effect of deep shadow seen with strong light between the spectator and it—the faithfully drawn weeds and rushes—effects which have now been stereotyped into a sort of cast-iron style, artistic, but not natural; mannered, though bearing evidence of practised skill and study? The artist has only himself to blame if the public eye is saturated with the same class of natural phenomena, for ever reproduced by the same means. *Morning, North Wales* (70), *Moel Hebog* (237), and *Llyn-y-Cwm, Flynnon, North Wales* (171), will best illustrate our meaning. Sixteen pictures have been sent by G. A. Williams, of which *The Towing Path* (64), *St. Swithin's Day* (80), are among the prettiest smaller pieces. *The Snowing* (155), is a wonderful imitation of a snowstorm, which pours down with the dense multiplicity of nature itself. Mr. S. C. Williams is still more natural and pleasing. *The Sand Pit, Hampstead* (20), has some bright colour, and most refreshing distant landscape. *Bonchurch* (133*), affords a clever but not unfamiliar arrangement, where the jetty projecting out against the bright sky, with dark water beyond, conveys a feeling of distance, which rises into the poetical. *Shrimping* (135*), again, is a calm and shady scene, full of quiet feeling. Mr. Arthur Gilbert's two pictures, *A Hazy Day* (28), and *On the Banks of the Thames* (319), are both important as to size and merits, but have a wiry appearance in the black tree-stems, which detracts from their effect.

Mr. John Bell has achieved an elaborate view of *Bettes-y-Coed* (43). This much be-painted locality, the Tivoli of Wales, was probably never so extensively gone into before. The result has its *ad captandum* merits, in distinctness and plain colour, but wants the variety, the harmony, the delicacy and the truth of nature. It looks like a composition of various objects, intended for uneducated eyes—a drawing-master style, which is not worthy of the really beautiful scenery it describes.

Amongst Mr. Hulme's pictures, *Wootton Woods, Surrey* (13), is a most pleasing and natural view of a fine piece of open country. The gentle curves of the horizon, and the masses of foliage, group themselves into a most agreeable arrangement; where, however, the greens have the defect of being a little too grey. This may be noticed in the artist's other productions.

Mr. Hammersley is by degrees reducing the redundancies of his florid style, and in *The Bernese Oberland, Switzerland* (16), we have an extensive view of comparatively sober colour, though the rain cloud on the right be rather *painty*, and there is not perfect harmony in the various tints. *St. Gair, on the Rhine* (188), is a pleasing sketch.

The Sea Coast (36) of Mr. Frederick Underhill, is a composition with more poetry than truth in it, unless the enormous vessel stranded on the shore be a study from the hull of the *Great Britain* in Dundrum Bay. No tide, short of an inundation, could float off such a mass. *Barnaby Rudge* (55) speaks for itself; a figure full of expression, with the contrasts and picturesque attitudes so dear to art. *The Farrier's Shop* (36), if a little too full of subject, is firm and clear, with a brightness and gaiety in its masses of green leaves.

Mr. James Peel's pictures are this year very attractive. Instances of firm and solid painting occur in these subjects, which show proficiency, and promise much. In *Borrowdale Scenery* (108), the rock is clear and hard, but too glaringly near the spectator. It seems almost to project from the frame.

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Cattle Crossing a Brook (293), is again rich in colour, and very good, showing a variety of resource, which will lead to eminence, if pursued. *The Old Wooden Bridge* (90), again, is very pretty, with a warm agreeable tint. Some sketches by the late J. C. Bentley will attract the attention that their sweetness, delicacy, and harmonious half-tints of colour demand, as, for instance, *On the Wenning, Yorkshire* (62), and *Bolton Abbey* (109).

Two views, one by Edward Armitage, *Loading Timber in the Morrain* (114), and another by W. Armitage, *A Study from Nature* (247), seem indubitably studied from the daguerreotype. In the former there is great skill in treating half distances, as the shades retire away into the thickets of the forest, and the drawing of the trees is very superior.

Mr. H. Dawson's *Farm near Croydon* (132) is a small but effective study; it is not disfigured with the woolly indistinctness of *Part of Dartmouth* (31), whilst it bears equal evidence of the power and facility of the artist. On the same screen is a large view of *Fotheringay* (134). The scene is elegantly treated, in a style a little unusual, from its simplicity; the canvas is not very amply filled, but an effect of airiness and of importance is gained by the treatment. Mr. P. West Glen's *Sketch on the Surrey Hills* (149) is a pleasant rich picture, and *Slop Gatherers* (185), by D. Pasmore, a lively scene. Greater distinctness of drawing and less spottiness of colour are discoverable in these groups, particularly in the *Introduction* (62), and *A Dance in the Olden Time* (201), which is rich and glowing, and shows much skill in the treatment both of figures and of the flower-mantled porch of the mansion. *La Porta Ottavia, Rome* (225), by W. Oliver, is a great advance upon the small and variegated landscapes which we are so familiar with. There is breadth of treatment and bold handling, in addition to the same Italian warmth of colour, and the result is a very fine and appropriate picture. *Ruined Ramparts, Foligno* (211), is more in the usual manner. Mr. Oliver is mostly accompanied, as in both the above instances, by an elegant and graceful sketch of English scenery from the pencil of Mrs. W. Oliver, and in this little matter of arrangement we have again to approve the taste of the committee. *Drachenfels* (265) is a very happy composition. *The Terrace, Haddon Hall* (291), by A. O. Deacon, is a favourite subject, nicely rendered. Nature seems gradually recovering her sway over this scene, where we observe the gradual encroachments of living vegetation and bloom over the crumbling walls of the terrace; a combination of art and nature, which, even in the decay of the former, is most interesting. Mr. T. K. Fairless has contributed two small landscapes of striking merits. *The Mountain Pass* (318) conveys well the sense of terror inspired by the storm. The travellers are dramatically placed, and the sketch looks like a scene from a romance. *The Favourite Haunt* (352) would seem to be a reminiscence of Claude.

Amongst the figure pictures not already alluded to, we regret to have to mention the subject, *The One Thing Needful* (88), by H. Barraud, with commendation. But we are sure that no spectator will view with anything but repugnance this meretricious treatment of a scene that is wont to inspire the most solemn emotions; where, however, we do not attribute wilful flippancy of treatment to the artist, but merely a mistaken or ill-regulated style of composition and painting, which is utterly at variance with the leading ideas of the narrative. The absence of reverential feeling is more to be regretted, as the kneeling figure, apart from its associations, is well studied. *Harold, the Earl, and the good Alfred* (68), by Mr. W. Maw Egley, is warmer in colour and treatment than his other picture, already noticed, but has still grievous faults of expression and attitude. Mr. Frank Wyburd's *Olivia* (133), on the screen, has all the elegance and delicacy for which his heads are distinguished, added to a slight expression of melancholy which seems to suggest even sorrow as well as tenderness. The subject (292), though not quite original in design, is treated with no less care and gracefulness. *Don Juan and Haidée* (136), by

I. J. Pittar, along with many merits of study, composition, and painting, is yet on the whole a failure; *Nymphs* (170), in a less ambitious style as to extent, involves as great difficulties of pictorial representation in another way. Like the other, it does not carry a feeling of perfection, or of being equal to its subject. Mr. D. W. Deane's small subject, *The Surprise* (186), of the same character, is in totally different style. Instead of being sentimentally disposed, and carefully finished, it is coarse and sketchy, but shows a degree of vigour. *The Viaticum* (252), by the same artist, is also designed with spirit and originality, and is painted without ostentation. Mr. Bell Smith's groups are gracefully arranged, but deficient in animation. *The Corn Flower* (256) is a pretty head, but *Loiterers at a Spring* (196) do certainly seem to be very idle indeed, and *Rustic Toilet* (260) suffers from a heaviness of feature. *Flora* (202), by H. Barraud, is a clever arrangement, but, we think, not original; and amongst the more agreeable groups we should not omit notice of those of Mr. Alfred Provis. As usual, however, some unfortunate vagaries are to be found, to excite universal amusement at the expense of the artists,—whether Mr. Alexander Rowan's Scripture scenes (217 and 286), and *Adrastus* (271), will be so fortunate as to do even this, we almost doubt. (The first is copied from a well-known group, employed years ago to illustrate Bowles's 'Sonnets'; but Mr. J. G. Wallis's *The Alarm* (282) provokes an unfeeling outbreak of mirth at its absurdity. The face of the mother is a melodrama in itself.

In portrait, besides those we have mentioned, there is a clever head by Mr. Dawson (169), striking for its force and truth, though neither ideal nor select as to costume; a sketch of *W. M. Thackeray, Esq.* (376), by Samuel Laurence, is also noticeable for breadth and boldness.

Mr. Earl is successful in his *Dog and Rabbit* (65), but might have spared us the *Study from Nature* (57); a braying ass is notoriously as ugly as it is dissonant—this is a mere caricature, and unworthy of the artist. *Breaking the Ice* (129), on the screen, is atrocious for the coarseness of its caricature and general degradation of art. Close by is a very graceful arrangement of flowers in an oval (131) by A. Couder. Mr. Paulson's fruit should not be omitted, though it wants clearness and brilliancy, and the grapes occasionally look dirty and clouded, as if ill chosen.

Amongst the water-colour artists, Miss B. Leigh Smith is conspicuous for an elevated feeling, and appreciation of nature in her grander and more impressive aspects, as exhibited on the stormy coast, or the uninhabited ranges of the Highland moors, as in *Sunset, Hastings* (361), *Carr Bridge, Scotland* (371), *Sunset near Penveney* (377), *Avicromore, Elgin* (406), and others. Mr. Hawkes's *Studies from Dante* (346) illustrates the self-absorption and gloom, if not the power of the "mighty master." Miss E. Macirone gives the reins to a romantic imagination in her *Forest Scene in the Days of Wicliffe* (389). Miss Sarah F. Hewitt's *The Pairing* (350) is a pretty picture, full of gaiety; and Mrs. Duffield's flowers (378 and 383) are remarkable for their depth of colour. But with the productions of these ladies we have enumerated all that is worth noticing in this room; the rest is generally grievous rubbish. We except Mr. Wood's numerous cabinet pictures of architecture (a few of which are here), taken chiefly from Rouen and the Norman churches, accurate in drawing, delicately fine in painting, and agreeable and full in colour.

Picture sales continue to be of frequent occurrence at Paris. At recent ones, a marine piece by Cuypp, went for 22*l.*; a *Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Distributing Alms*, by Van Dyck, for 100*l.*; a landscape, by Rembrandt, 2*sl.*; a *Girl giving Drink to a Soldier of the French Guards*, by Watteau, 15*l.*; a *Saint John*, by Murillo, 184*l.*; a *Saint Anthony of Padua*, by the same, 38*l.*; a *Saint Dominick*, by the same, 40*l.*; a *Christ*, by Philippe de Champaigne, 30*l.*; a *Saint Cecilia playing on the Violin*, by Domenichino, 20*l.*; the *Death of Saint James of*

Compostella, by the same, 46*l.*; two *Balls in the Gardens of the Palace at Trianon*, by Lancret, 220*l.*; a *Young Girl in Prayer*, by Greuze, 100*l.*; *Cleopatra Disembarking at Cyprus*, by Claude Lorraine, 48*l.*; the *Passage of a River in a Storm*, by Ruysdael, personages by Wouvermans, 105*l.*; a *Torrent falling from Rocks*, by Ruysdael, 79*l.*; a *Peasant Girl Bathing by Moonlight*, by Watteau, 8*l.*; a portrait of *Cosmo de Medicis*, ascribed to Van Dyck, 20*l.*; *Ruins of a Chateau on the borders of a Forest*, by Huysmans, 30*l.*; *Peasants and Flocks near a Forest*, by the same, 45*l.*; *Virgin and Infant Jesus in a landscape*, by Albertinelli, 56*l.*; *Murillo's Mistress*, by himself, 120*l.*; *Two Little Beggars Eating*, by Reynolds, 14*l.*; two mountain landscapes, by Ruysdael, 102*l.*; the *Holy Virgin with Infant Jesus in her Arms*, by Sassoferrato, 56*l.*; *Interior of a Village and Canal*, by the same, 58*l.*; and a funeral, by A. Caracci, 21*l.* The pictures by the great masters, which went at low prices, were probably of doubtful authenticity; but as a general rule, in Paris the prices given for pictures at public sales are no criterion whatever of their real value, as there is nothing in which the public displays so much unaccountable fickleness.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

STATISTICAL.—The anniversary meeting of this Society was held on Monday, the 21st of March instant, at 12, St. James's-square, the Right Hon. Lord Overstone, President, in the chair. The Secretary read the following report of the Council on the progress of the Society during the past year:—*Nineteenth Annual Report*.—The Society has received a further accession to the number of its members. The increase by new elections having been twenty in number, and the decrease by deaths and withdrawals fifteen, there is a balance in favour of the Society of five additional members. The Council regret to state that among their losses by death are two of their most esteemed members, G. R. Porter, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer of the Society, and Joseph Fletcher, Esq., one of the Honorary Secretaries. Mr. Porter, it will be recollected, was Joint Secretary of the Board of Trade, and author of various works relating to statistics and political economy, of which the most extensive, the most useful, and the most widely known, is 'The Progress of the Nation.' Several valuable statistical essays from his pen appeared in 'Lardner's Cyclopaedia,' and in the 'Companion to the Almanac,' between the years 1834 and 1845. His first work of importance was that on the 'Nature and Properties of the Sugar Cane;' his last literary effort, in a separate form, was the translation of Bastiat's 'Sophismes Economiques.' He also contributed to the 'Transactions' of this Society a series of most valuable essays, commencing with the year 1838, and ending with the year 1852. 'The Progress and Present Extent of Savings Banks in the United Kingdom,' 'The Influence of Education as shown by Criminal Returns,' 'The Agricultural Statistics of Ireland,' 'A Comparative Statement of Prices and Wages during the years from 1842 to 1849,' 'An Examination of the recent Statistics of the Cotton Trade of Great Britain,' 'The Self-imposed Taxation of the Working Classes in the United Kingdom,' and 'The Accumulation of Capital by the different Classes of Society,' are among the most recent of Mr. Porter's contributions. The extent and value of the statistical information which these essays contain, and their direct bearing upon some of the most important social questions of our times, have caused them to be as highly appreciated by the public at large as by the Society to which they were originally addressed. Other valuable papers, 'On the Systematic Collection of the Statistics of Agriculture,' 'On the Census of 1841, and on the Ages of the English Population according to that Census,' and a paper on 'Railway Statistics,' make up the number of Mr. Porter's contributions on subjects of immediate interest to our own countrymen. His papers on 'Mining Industry in France,' published in 1838, on the 'Mining Statistics of France,' published in 1844, and that on 'The Productive Industry of

Paris,' which was read before the statistical section of the British Association at Belfast, on the 2nd of September, 1852 (the day before his death), and published in the Journal of this Society, in December of last year, evince both the deep interest which he took in the material progress of our nearest continental neighbours, and the accurate and extensive knowledge which he possessed on that subject. The Council feel that this enumeration of Mr. Porter's contributions to the Journal of the Society must constitute in the eyes of its Fellows the most welcome tribute they could offer to his memory. The Council have ordered these essays to be bound up in a separate volume, and to be placed on their shelves, partly as a permanent tribute to his memory, and partly for the convenience of those who may wish to peruse his valuable papers in a collected form. Mr. Fletcher, our late Honorary Secretary, was a Government Inspector of British Schools, but had previously filled more than one public office, with the greatest credit to himself and advantage to the public. His first official employment was as Secretary to the Commission of Inquiry relative to the hand-loom weavers. He subsequently filled the same office in connexion with the Children's Employment Commission, and was the author of the interesting and instructive reports on that subject. His appointment as Inspector of Schools took place in 1844; but that important post, though it entailed upon him the duty of furnishing that series of voluminous reports in which he displayed so much industry, ability, and sound judgment, joined to so deep and abiding an interest in the great work entrusted to his hands, was not permitted to impair his efficiency as an officer of this Society, nor did it prevent him from rendering valuable services to the British Association as Secretary to its statistical section. He was also Editor of the Journal of this Society, to which his contributions on the Municipal Institutions of the Metropolis, and on Moral and Educational Statistics, fill two considerable volumes on the shelves of our library. The Council, in virtue of the powers conferred upon them by the fourteenth regulation, proceeded to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of Mr. Porter and Mr. Fletcher, by appointing Benjamin Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer of the Society, in lieu of Mr. Porter, and F. G. P. Neison, Esq., as Honorary Secretary, in lieu of Mr. Fletcher. Dr. Guy, one of the Honorary Secretaries, has been appointed Editor of the Journal. The Council have also appointed Mr. Cheshire to fill the office of Assistant Secretary, vacant by the resignation of Mr. T. J. Brown. The meetings of the Society during the past year have been exceedingly well attended; and some of the subjects brought forward for discussion have excited an unusual degree of interest. Since the last anniversary of the Society eleven communications have been read and discussed; they have been nearly equally divided between the important department of vital statistics, in which the Journal of the Society, from its commencement, has been extremely rich, and subjects having a direct bearing upon the science of political economy and the inquiries which are most calculated to interest the statesman. The contributions belonging to the department of vital statistics consisted of an interesting paper by Mr. Neison, 'On the Rate of Mortality in the Medical Profession,' of a valuable communication by Col. Sykes, 'On the Mortality and Sickness of the Bombay Army, during the years 1848-9,' followed by an elaborate essay 'On the Vital and Medical Statistics of Chittagong,' by J. A. Bedford, Esq.; of a paper by Mr. Farr, 'On the Influence of Elevation on the Fatality of Cholera,' of a translation by A. S. O. Massey, Esq., of a 'Treatise on the Statistics of the Insane, Blind, Deaf, and Dumb, and Lepers in Norway,' from the pen of Professor Holst, and of a paper by Dr. Hübner 'On Mental Diseases in Denmark.' The communications which have been mentioned as having a more direct bearing on the science of political economy, are a second paper by Dr. Guy, 'On the Effect of the Remission of Taxes on the Revenue in the Thirty Years from 1822 to 1851 inclusive,' and a paper by the same

author, 'On the Relation of the Price of Wheat to the Revenue,' an essay 'On the Valuation and Purchase of Land in Ireland,' by John Locke, Esq., and the valuable paper by Mr. Farr, 'On the Income Tax,' which has so recently engaged the attention of the Society. Mr. John Crawford's paper 'On the History and Consumption of Tobacco,' and a paper 'On the Population of the Colony of British Guiana, as enumerated on the 31st of March, 1851,' being the substance of a despatch from Governor Barkly, complete this enumeration of the transactions of the Society for the past year. The Society is indebted for this last communication to the courtesy of Earl Grey during his tenure of the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Council have also the pleasure of stating, that the statistical section of the British Association, last autumn, was unusually well attended, and that many highly interesting papers were submitted to it, of which several either have appeared, or will appear, in the pages of the Journal of this Society. As the Journal now amounts to fifteen volumes, the Council have authorised the Honorary Secretaries to take the necessary steps for preparing a general index, in which useful work they are happy to state that some progress has been already made. The financial condition of the Society is very satisfactory. All its sources of income for the past year exhibit an increase over the corresponding items in the account of the previous year. The President addressed the meeting at considerable length on the subject of the report, and in the course of his speech delivered an able and lucid exposition of the objects of the Society, and of the principles and utility of statistical science. Sir John Boileau, Bart., moved, and Col. Sykes seconded, the adoption of the report; and a ballot having taken place for the President, Council, and officers for the year ensuing, the following was declared to be the list:—*President*.—The Right Hon. Charles, Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G., F.R.S. *Council*.—James Bird, M.D., Sir John P. Boileau, Bart., F.R.S., *Lord Alfred Churchill, John Towne Danson, Esq., Rev. E. Wyatt-Edgell, Wm. Farr, Esq., the Right Hon. Charles, Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G., F.R.S., J. W. Gilbert, Esq., F.R.S., the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., W. A. Guy, M.B., James Heywood, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., Thomas Hodgkin, M.D., Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., W. G. Lumley, Esq., the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, F.G.S., John Melville, Esq., Francis G. P. Neison, Esq., William Newmarch, Esq., W. D. Oswald, Esq., the Right Hon. Lord Overstone, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Oxford, F.R.S., V.P.A.S., Benjamin Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., *Thomas Henry Sutton Sotherton, Esq., M.P., Sir G. Staunton, Bart., F.R.S., Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Sykes, F.R.S., *Sir J. Emerson Tennent, Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S., John Ingram Travers, Esq., *Lord Harry George Vane, *John Walter, Esq., M.P., the *Right Hon. Lord Wodehouse. *Treasurer*.—Benjamin Phillips, Esq., F.R.S. *Honorary Secretaries*.—W. D. Oswald, Esq., W. A. Guy, M.B., F. G. P. Neison, Esq. The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie then moved, and Sir George Staunton, Bart. seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman for his assiduous and valuable services to the Society during the two years of his tenure of office, and the same having been carried unanimously, the meeting separated.

LINNEAN.—March 15th.—Robert Brown, Esq., President, in the chair. John Van Voorst, Esq., was elected a Fellow. Mr. Robert Heward, F.L.S., presented dried specimens of Melastomaceae, chiefly collected by M. Claussen, in Brazil. Mr. S. Stevens, F.L.S., presented a collection of dried plants, formed by Mrs. Duffield, in the vicinity of Swan River. Read, the continuation of Mr. Bunbury's 'Notes on the Vegetation of Buenos Ayres and the neighbouring districts.' After a short account of the materials whence his notes were derived, consisting first of an extensive herbarium formed by the late Mr. Fox in the neighbourhood of

Rio Janeiro, as well as at Monte Video and other localities on the Rio de la Plata, and along the lower part of the Uruguay, in the years 1831-3; and 2ndly, of observations made by Mr. Bunbury himself, during a short stay at Buenos Ayres in 1834, the author proceeds to define the limits of the region treated of, which is that lying on both banks of the Rio de la Plata, and on the lower part of the two great rivers by whose junction it is formed, comprising those parts of the republics of Buenos Ayres and Banda Oriental which lie nearest to the Plata, between 33° and 35° south lat. The Rio de la Plata (at Buenos Ayres twenty or thirty miles wide) forms a strong geological boundary between two very dissimilar formations; all its northern shore being composed of crystalline rocks, granite, gneiss, &c., which extends many degrees to the northward, while to the south of the Plata nothing is seen but tertiary formations of very late date; first, the mud and marl of the Pampas, and further south, the gravel and shingle of Patagonia. Yet, notwithstanding this difference in geological structure between the two banks, it is singular that the Plata does not form a botanical boundary line, the leading characteristics of the vegetation being the same on both sides. The whole country, from the frontiers of Brazil southwards to the borders of Patagonia, may be regarded as one botanical province, which Mr. Bunbury proposes to designate, from the name of the River Plate, the Argentine region. The most striking peculiarity of this region is the almost entire absence of trees, and the scarcity even of shrubs, except along the river banks, presenting in this respect a remarkable contrast to the gigantic vegetation of Rio Janeiro. The vegetation of the Argentine region is, moreover, distinguished from that of Brazil by the diminished number of tropical families, and also by something of a European physiognomy, which the author attributes partly to the extreme abundance of naturalised European plants, partly to a certain general similarity of outward appearance, rather than to a real botanical analogy. The prevalence of naturalised European plants in the Argentine region is most extraordinary, many of these immigrants having spread so rapidly as to cover the soil to a great extent, and actually to preponderate over the native growth. A considerable proportion of the plants in the immediate neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres are colonists from our own quarter of the globe. Among the most abundant are *Echium violaceum*, the common fennel, *Chenopodium album*, *Sonchus oleraceus* *Medicago denticulata*, Dutch clover, &c.; and *Lolium perenne*, *Hordeum marinum* and *pratense*, are among the most common grasses. Nor are these intrusive strangers confined to the cultivated lands or to the neighbourhood of the city; on the contrary, they have spread far and wide over the open plains. Tropical forms of vegetation are not wholly wanting in the Argentine region, but occur chiefly on the banks and islands of the principal rivers. Of the *Melastomaceae*, so eminently characteristic of tropical Brazil, one solitary species reaches the north bank of the Plata, but does not cross it. The Palms, according to Mr. Darwin, occur here and there, as far as 35° south, and they appear to extend about equally far south on the Chilean side of the Andes. The southern limit of the Argentine vegetation seems determined mainly by soil; the northern by climate alone. To the south it extends to about the Rio Colorado, in lat. 40° south, where the calcareous marl of the Pampas is exchanged for the arid shingly gravel of Patagonia. Here the herbaceous vegetation which clothes pretty uniformly the surface of the Pampas is replaced by low, scraggy, thorny shrubs, and dry, meagre grasses, which impart to the country a remarkably barren and miserable aspect. To the northward the Argentine region seems to melt gradually into that of Southern Brazil. About Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sul, little more than 4° north of Buenos Ayres, the botany has a thoroughly Brazilian character, notwithstanding the absence of great forests. There are abundance of large showy climbers of a tropical aspect, arborecent *Mimoseae* and *Compositae*, and a vast profusion of

* Those marked thus are new members.

myrtles. The numerous ferns of Rio Grande (two of which are arborescent) are almost all common to that district and Rio Janeiro, while the comparatively small number of *Melastomaceæ* indicates the approach to the Argentine region. After regretting the insufficiency of his materials for a comparison of the Flora of Chili with that of the districts bordering on the Plata, Mr. Bunbury observes, that notwithstanding the opinion expressed by Meyen in his 'Geography of Plants,' it is evident, from information furnished by Meyen himself, that the general physiognomy of the Chilean Flora is very different from that of the Argentine region; the Chilean Flora, by Meyen's account, being as strikingly characterised by dry shrubs with coriaceous and glossy leaves, as that of the Plata is by the prevalence of herbaceous forms. The Argentine Flora has little or no general analogy with that of the southern parts of North America, lying in corresponding latitudes on the other side of the equator, notwithstanding that there are some striking, though insulated points of resemblance, in the identity, or extreme similarity, of particular species. Between the Flora of the shores of the Plata and that of the Cape of Good Hope an extraordinary difference exists, notwithstanding that the latitude and mean temperature of the two countries are nearly the same. The plants of the Argentine region are chiefly herbaceous, while at the Cape there is a great predominance of hard, dry, small-leaved shrubs. Almost all the characteristic families and genera of the two Floras are different; nearly the only points in the Argentine Flora which remind us of South Africa being several species of *Oxalis*, and some showy *Irideæ*, which decorate the banks of the Plata, while the *Cactææ* of that country are represented at the Cape by succulent *Euphorbias*. In comparing the Flora of Buenos Ayres with that of the Cape, one circumstance which strikes us is, that the former is much less strongly marked than the latter; considered botanically, it is at once recognised as a province of South America, while the botany of the Cape has little resemblance to that of the rest of Africa. The number of peculiar, or endemic genera of the Argentine region, is comparatively inconsiderable, and such genera there usually consist of but few species; while at the Cape the endemic genera are remarkably numerous, and several of them very rich in species. Another difference between the Cape of Good Hope and Buenos Ayres is, that naturalised European plants do not play nearly so conspicuous a part in the botany of the former country as of the latter. The few points of resemblance between the vegetation of Australia and that of the temperate parts of South America all seem to apply to Chili. The *Proteaceæ*, which occur, though sparingly, in Fugieia, Chili, Peru, and tropical Brazil, are entirely absent from the Argentine region. Mr. Bunbury concludes his paper with remarks upon some of the principal families of plants contained in his collections, and on the range of particular species.

HORTICULTURAL.—March 15th.—Dr. Henderson in the chair. The Right Hon. T. F. Kennedy was elected a Fellow. The objects of exhibition specially invited on this occasion were hybrid rhododendrons, forced strawberries, and salads; but no rhododendrons or strawberries came, and only one salad was produced, in the shape of a very fine collection of such vegetables from Mr. Burns, gardener to Lord Stanhope, at Chevening. It consisted of blanched chicory (the entire-leaved sort), curled and Batavian endive, Bath cos and hardly green lettuce; American, Normandy, golden, curled, and water cresses; Italian corn salad, a much better kind than the common sort; white mustard, common garden sorrel, Burnet, red beet, chervil, Cole's dwarf red celery in admirable condition, being sound and solid, and beautifully blanched; tarragon, early frame radishes, chives, and Tripoli onions. A Banksian medal was awarded. A similar award was likewise made to Mr. Bailey, Shardeles, for a prickly Cayenne pine-apple, weighing 5 lbs. 8 ozs. It was remarked that this variety

ought to be more commonly cultivated than it is, possessing, as it does, all the good qualities of an Enville, without any of its bad ones. Mr. Butcher, gardener to W. Leaf, Esq., of Streatham, sent two bunches of Muscat of Alexandria grapes, a little shrivelled, but still in good preservation, and a bunch of black Babarossa, which, although of last year's produce, was plump and fresh as the best new grapes could possibly be. A Banksian medal was awarded it. Of plants, Messrs. Weeks and Co., of Chelsea, sent *Puya longifolia*, for which a certificate of merit was awarded, and cut flowers of *Nymphaea cœrulea* and *dentata*. The *Puya* was fastened on a block of wood like an orchid, a condition in which its numerous long scarlet flowers produced a brilliant display; and it was mentioned that, owing to the hardness of their skin, they kept long in perfection. It is one of those high coloured Pitcairnia-like plants which inhabit tropical America, and which are found to be so handsome in our stoves at a season when such things are most wanted. Among miscellaneous subjects were bark and wood of Fitz-Roya Patagonica, from Messrs. Standish and Noble, of Bagshot. The wood bore considerable resemblance to cedar, being red, smooth, and beautiful; the bark was thick and spongy, and appeared destined by nature to protect the tree from cold, furnishing additional proof that it will turn out to be hardy in this country, which it promises to be. A collection of varieties of Indian corn was exhibited by G. T. Davy, Esq., of Sussex-square, Hyde-park. They were from Cusco, and consisted of very fine large kinds little known in this country, but unfortunately too tender for our climate. It was hinted, however, that they might be found worth a trial in some of the colonies, whose summers are longer and warmer than our own. It was stated that this Cusco corn was quite different from the Indian corn of North America. An imported cone of the New Holland *Araucaria Bidwillii* was contributed by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Mitchell. It is the Bunya-bunya of the natives, who feed on its large bean-like seeds. From the garden of the Society came *Oncidium barbatum*, the fine variety of *Dendrobium nobile* called *Blandyanum*, the hardy blue-flowered Californian *Ceanothus rigidus*, the true *Acacia cæstrifolia*, a useful species for pot culture, two heaths and epacris, the Swan River shrub, *Trymalium odoratissimum*, *Cytisus racemosus*, and *Polygala Dalmaniana*. The garden also supplied the following varieties of salad vegetables, viz., lettuce, scarole à fleur blanche, chicorée fine d'Été and Sauvage améliorée panachée mustard; American, Normandy, and other cress; celeri gros violet de Tours, early white winter radish, Deptford onion, Burnet, common garden sorrel, broad-leaved ditto, French ditto, and Oseille de Belleville, by far the best sort; also chervil, Atkins' crimson and Sutton's fine dark red beet, Mache Ronde and M. d'Italie, the latter decidedly the king of corn salads. Cuttings of the following fruit trees were distributed, viz., *Dunmore plum*, a variety raised by the late Mr. Knight, and described in the Society's 'Transactions.' It is a good sized oval fruit (yellow), although it sprang from a seed of the purple imperatrice and pollen of Coe's golden drop. The flesh adheres to the stone, is yellowish, extremely rich and sugary, so much so that it shrivels and dries like a preserved prune. The tree is hardy, and bears well as a standard, ripening later than Coe's golden drop. It is not much in cultivation, but is highly approved of by all who have fruited it. *Beardnell's seedling pear*.—This is a middle-sized sort, so melting and juicy that it is scarcely possible for any pear to be more so. It ripens in the end of September or beginning of October. The tree is vigorous and bears very abundantly. *Nouveau Poiteau and Colmar tardif pears*.—These were received from M. Van Houtte as new and good sorts; but as they have not yet fruited in the garden, nothing further could be said respecting them.

ANTIQUARIES.—March 17th.—J. P. Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Matthew Dawes, Mr. Charles Arnistead, and Mr. Jonathan Gooding,

were elected Fellows. Mr. Cole presented to the Society a copy in MS. of a Proclamation said to have been issued by the Pretender, and posted on the walls of the different towns through which he and his adherents passed in the year 1745. It bears the date of the 23rd December, two years earlier. Mr. Phillips exhibited a number of small objects found recently in the bed of the Sherborne river at Coventry. These comprised some pilgrims' badges in lead, as well as some other badges of the 15th century, among which was the white boar of Richard the Third. Also some ancient knives and brooches, a small coin of Crispus, son of Constantine the Great, and several tradesmen's tokens of the latter half of the 17th century. Mr. Parker exhibited some beautiful lithographs of paintings on the walls of the church of St. Savin, in Poitiers. These lithographs have been executed by order and at the expense of the French government. The paintings are of great interest to the mediæval antiquary, and are as old as the 11th century. Mr. Gooding exhibited the matrices of two personal seals in brass, and what appeared to be a proof impression of a medal by Albert Durer, with the artist's monogram, and the date 1508. The impression is from one side of the die, and represents a female head bare to the shoulders. It is said to be the portrait of Durer's wife. The original drawing of this medal is preserved in the British Museum. Mr. Lemon exhibited a painting in oil, presumed to be a portrait of the poet Milton. The name of Milton was formerly written on the back of the canvas in an old hand, but had been removed and destroyed by the person by whom the picture had been cleaned and lined. Mr. Lemon, in a note to the vice-president, took occasion to remark on the importance of establishing a portrait gallery of illustrious men, a subject which had engaged the attention of the president, Lord Mahon, who had recently called the attention of parliament to the subject. Mr. A. Taylor communicated some remarks on the derivation of the name of the town of Godmanchester, the orthography of which had been strangely perverted at various periods. In Doomsday-book, however, it was given as Godmuncestre, hence Mr. Taylor is led to conclude that the name was derived from one Guthmund, or Godmund, the Saxon lord of a deserted Roman city. Mr. Bruce, the treasurer, then read a memoir on the career of William Penn, his writings, and his imprisonments, illustrated by several new documents contributed by Mr. Lemon from the State-Paper Office. The Society then adjourned over the Easter recess to Thursday, April 7th.

ZOOLOGICAL.—March 22nd.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Cumming communicated a paper on twenty-three new species of land shells, from his own collection, by Dr. Pfeiffer. These shells were referred to the genera *Helix*, *Bulimus*, *Cyclostoma*, *Catanulus*, *Pupina*, and *Helicina*. Mr. Cumming also communicated the descriptions of three new species of *Limnæacea*, by Dr. William Dunker. Mr. Gould exhibited to the meeting four species of *Tetragalus*, including a new one from the collection of the Hon. East India Company, obtained in Ladak, which differs essentially from the older species by its smaller size, its orange legs, and its sides being streaked with black, instead of tender chesnut. The name proposed for it is *T. Thibetanus*. The whole of the species live in temperate or snowy regions of the Himalaya and Caucasus, and the fine health in which *T. Caucasians* has been for several months preserved in the Society's menagerie would indicate that the whole of them might be acclimated in the Scotch and Cumberland mountains. Lieut. Burgess exhibited an extensive series of drawings of the eggs of Indian birds made by himself. Mr. G. R. Gray communicated the descriptions of two new species of *Ptilonopus* in the national collection, the habitat of which is unknown. These extremely beautiful birds were characterized under the names of *P. chrysogaster* and *P. purpureocinctus*. Mr. Westwood directed the attention of the meeting to a series of most interesting drawings, illustrative of the transformations of several genera

of Australian insects, from the able pencil of Miss Scott, of Hunter's Island, New South Wales.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—London Institution, 7 p.m.—(C. V. Walker, Esq., on Electric Telegraphs.)
— School of Mines.—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Tuesday.—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
Wednesday.—Chemical, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
— Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
— Microscopical, 8 p.m.
— School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Thursday.—London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Rev. Robert Walker, on Sound.)
— Department of Practical Art, 8 p.m.—(R. N. Warrum, Esq., on the History of the Art applied to Ancient Pottery.)
— School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
Friday.—Botanical, 8 p.m.
— Archaeological Institute, 4 p.m.
— School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Saturday.—2 p.m.
— Medical, 8 p.m.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—The announcement of the sale by auction of the properties of Her Majesty's Theatre took no one by surprise, though few could bring themselves to believe that the hammer would be really brought into requisition. The last public struggle against the impending fate seemed to close in the defeat of Mr. Phinn's motion in the House of Commons, for a charter to the association which had been formed to assume the management. Hopes were nevertheless cherished of some fortunate interposition of capital or public spirit. But at length the inexorable mortgagee in possession issued his mandate, and the auctioneer was instructed to prepare the catalogue. On Monday, the 14th, a last chance was given of avoiding a general break-up. The whole was then put up in one lot; the auctioneer, Mr. James Scott, in a few sensible and pointed remarks, deprecating the scattering of the valuable properties, the inevitable result of which would be the closing of that house for ever to the musical drama. No advance was made on the sum of 12,000*l.*, at which the whole was set up, and the auctioneer announced the commencement of the sale by lots on Thursday the 17th, and following days. Accordingly the sale proceeded for two days with considerable spirit, and a large part of the gentlemen's wardrobe was disposed of at low prices. On Monday morning a notice appeared, that in consequence of a treaty being opened for private purchase, the sale would be postponed for the present. To avert the completion of the catastrophe, Mr. Puzzi, well known for his services in arranging the professional engagements for the house, Mr. Nugent, the superintendent, Mr. Robinson, the treasurer, Mr. Hargreaves Jennings, the auditor, backed by the representatives of the box-proprietors, and by one or two gentlemen of capital, came forward to announce the organization of a new management. It was, however, announced yesterday in 'The Times,' that the question about this establishment is now definitely settled, by Mr. Frederick Gye, director-in-chief of the Royal Italian Opera, becoming the lessee.

The prospectus of arrangements for the season at **THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA** at Covent Garden has this week appeared. There is not much at present to call for special remark. To the list of operas advertised at the opening of last season there have been added, Donizetti's *Martiri*, Spohr's *Faust*, and Jullien's *Pietro il Grande*, making the whole number of pieces in the *répertoire*, complete in scenery, costumes, and appointments, thirty-nine. Six operas new to London are named, with the promise of three being produced during the season. The six are, Spohr's *Jessonda*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Rossini's *Matilda*, Donizetti's *Don Sebastian*, Bonetti's *Juana Shore*, and *Benvenuto Cellini*, the only dramatic work of Hector Berlioz. The first and last named in the list will, we trust, be among the three 'positively' promised. The cata-

logue of artists is substantially the same as last year, all the best names being repeated. A hint is given of Johanna Wagner, but the direction wisely refrain from expressing more than "sanguine hopes" of her appearance, and "regret that they have been unable to make a positive arrangement." Of those who make their first appearance in England, the most conspicuous name is Madame Medori, one of the *prime donne* at St. Petersburg. The ballet department will be rendered more attractive. The orchestra and chorus, it is said, "will exhibit the same high state of efficiency." The exclusion of Piatti and Bottesini has attracted notice, and some better explanation can no doubt be given than neglect of the directors. They may perhaps contribute to the efficiency of the orchestra of Her Majesty's Theatre. In the other arrangements there are various changes, but none of much importance to the success of the campaign. The appointment of Mr. William Beverley as scenic artist will be of service to that department. Mr. Costa retains his post as conductor and musical director.

The opening performances of the Philharmonic Societies we briefly referred to last week, but had to postpone the following notice from press of matter. The subscription list for the **PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS** at Hanover-square Rooms is larger than for several previous seasons, and an unusual number of tickets were also sold at the door on the first evening. The concert was equal to those of the best days of the Philharmonic, and under Mr. Costa's direction, and with a judicious committee of management, there is no risk of the reputation of the Society declining, or its popularity waning. The first piece on the programme was a 'Sinfonia in A minor,' by Gade, a pupil and protégé of Mendelssohn, and his successor as musical director at Leipsic. In the different movements there appeared considerable fertility and variety of invention, the melodies being developed with skill and taste, and the orchestral treatment displaying much ability. The Mazourka movement was encoored, and the closing passages were also much applauded. The reception of the Sinfonia was such as would have gratified Gade and his friend Mendelssohn, who is said to have been annoyed by the work not being duly appreciated when first heard. Some partiality would be necessary to secure for any but the very highest works enthusiastic or unqualified admiration all at once. Gade's Sinfonia is not of this class, but it deserves a place in the Society's *répertoire*. Beethoven's 'Sinfonia Eroica' was given in admirable style. The 'Overture in C, op. 124,' of Beethoven, is less familiarly known, and less frequently heard at concerts. Spohr's overture, 'Berg-geists,' was finely given. Mendelssohn's 'Concerto in G minor' was performed with great brilliancy of execution by Mrs. F. B. Jewson, late Miss Anderson Kirkham. Although a long and difficult piece, she played it entirely from memory, with perfect readiness and faultless accuracy. Winter's duet, 'Ti veggo,' was beautifully given by Madame Castellan and Miss Dolby,—the latter also singing, with much power and feeling, Jomelli's aria, 'All'idea di tuoi perigli.' The duet from Rossini's *Stabat Mater* could hardly fail to please with such voices. No other point in the concert calls for special remark. The trio of Messrs. Lucas, Hancock, and Howell was given with skill and effect, of which some may think Corelli's music hardly deserving. The orchestra was in great efficiency, and Mr. Costa's leadership marked by its usual excellence.

The **NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY** commenced its second season, at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday the 16th. The directors of this young association give every indication of vigorous energy in advancing its interests. The orchestra has been reinforced, and is declared to be now the largest concert-orchestra in Europe. The chorus, consisting entirely of professional singers, has also been increased. The services of Dr. Lindpaintner, Dr. Wyld, and, for the last two concerts, Dr. Spohr, have been secured as conductors. The list of works promised during the season is long and important, and it will require some management to accomplish so much

in six concerts. Among the pieces, besides those heard in Wednesday evening, are Mendelssohn's *Walpurgis Night*, Beethoven's Cantata in praise of Music, Dr. Wyld's music to Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Beethoven's 'Choral Symphony,' his 'Missa Solennis in D, No. 1,' Cherubini's 'Requiem,' Macfarren's overture to *Don Carlos*, selection from Mr. E. J. Loder's *Island of Calypso*, and other compositions, new and old. On Wednesday evening, the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves, from illness, caused some disappointment, but his place was well taken by Mr. Lockey, and the arrangement of the programme was little altered. Herr Lindpaintner was well received, and as the concert proceeded his ability and tact as a conductor were marked and appreciated by the audience. The veteran composer and leader, some of whose works are so favourably known in this country, will henceforth be welcomed as a first-rate orchestral conductor. Of his own works two were given, the spirited and brilliant *Vampire* overture, and a concerto for the clarinet, in which M. Wuille displayed his skill and his mastery of the tones of that instrument. Beethoven's overture to *Egmont* was the opening piece, followed by two choruses of the same master, from *Fidelio*, the Prisoners, and from the *Ruins of Athens*, the Dervishes chorus, both of which were well executed, and the latter encoored. The solemn air of Sarastro, the High Priest in Mozart's *Zauberflöte*, was finely given by Mr. Weiss, with chorus and trombone accompaniment, the effect of which was very striking. The first part of the concert closed with a masterly performance of Mendelssohn's Symphony in A minor, commonly called the Scotch Symphony, one of the greatest and certainly the most popular of Mendelssohn's works. It was first introduced in this country by the Philharmonic Society at the Hanover Rooms under the direction of the composer, and rapidly took its place high in the estimation of musical judges. M. Jullien has rendered it familiar to popular audiences, and the manner of its performance at Exeter Hall on Wednesday was well appreciated by the crowded audience, who loudly expressed their satisfaction, and greeted the conductor with deserved applause. At the close of the second part, Mendelssohn's 'War March' in *Athalie* was also grandly performed. Weber's cantata, *Kampf und Sieg*, part 2, with its recitatives, choruses, and instrumental passages, displays some originality and considerable dramatic power as a composition, but it is not a work of a style likely to have lasting popularity. It was composed in commemoration of the battle of 'La belle Alliance,' or Waterloo, and represents in lyric music some of the ideas, warlike and triumphant, suggested by that great passage of history. But the piece has little of the genius of the composer of the *Der Freischütz* and *Oberon*, and the audience did not judge highly of the merits of this neglected work of Weber. Gluck's choruses, 'Iphigenia in Tauride,' did not produce the same effect that they did when first heard last season at these concerts under the direction of Berlioz. The pianoforte performance by Mdlle. Clauss, of Beethoven's Concerto in C minor, was excellent, and sustained the reputation she gained last season as a pianist of accomplishment and taste. The success of the concert was highly encouraging and gratifying, and we trust that the directors will continue their efforts with unabated zeal, till the completion of the new Philharmonic Hall, the building of which will, we have little doubt, be as successful as a speculation as it will conduce to the promotion of musical art. The proprietors, we understand, are Sir Charles Fox, Mr. Peto, and Mr. Brassey, the eminent contractors, who have the means as well as the enterprise to carry through any public scheme which they take in hand. The New Hall is to be opened in 1854, when the performances of the highest order of musical works will be accessible to the public at a cost unknown in former times. The second concert of this season is announced for the 13th of April.

Last Saturday the first concert of the pupils of **THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC** took place at the Hanover-square Rooms. The compositions and performances of the students were highly creditable.

Three new compositions—a Chorus, by Mr. Ings, a pupil of Mr. Cipriani Potter; the 16th Psalm, set to music by Mr. Thompson; and a Cantata, by Dr. Steggall, deservedly received the approbation of the audience. In all the pieces there were excellent points, especially the quintett and choral finale in Mr. Thompson's piece, and one of the double choruses in Dr. Steggall's sacred Cantata, Miss Hales, pupil of Mr. Jewson, performed Weber's *Concert Stück* with much ability, and Mr. Coomber's performance of Mozart's Concerto in C was also good. Of the vocal performers, Miss Freeman, Miss Bertha Street, and others, increased the interest of the Exhibition of the Academy. A selection from Dr. Crotch's oratorio of *Palestine* was given as the commencement of the concert. The orchestra was sufficiently effective, and Mr. Lucas acted ably as conductor.

A Philharmonic Society has been established at Soerabaya, in the island of Java. It already numbers 250 members, and recently it performed selections from Handel, Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven.

The oratorios during the week at Exeter-Hall have attracted unusual audiences, and have afforded displays of the highest style of sacred music. The *Messiah* was performed by both the Sacred Harmonic and the London Sacred Harmonic Societies. There was nothing to call for special notice, except the appearance in great force of Her Formes for the first time this season.

Mr. H. Blagrove announces a series of four violin soirées at the Concert Rooms, 71, Mortimer street, on Wednesday evenings, commencing March 30. Eminent vocal and instrumental artists are engaged to assist Mr. Blagrove, the performance of whose selections of classical works, as well as of his own compositions, will not fail to prove attractive.

A "change has come o'er" the Italian Opera at Paris, and it now seems fully secure of the public favour for the rest of the season. Madame La Grange and Napoleone Rossi have appeared, and both have gained vast success. It was in the *Barbieri* that she *débütée*. The lady possesses a splendid mezzo-soprano, clear, full, and metallic as an instrument, and manages it with extraordinary facility and skill. Her head notes are peculiarly remarkable. The admiration she excited could not easily be exceeded. She has long been an immense favourite in Germany, and the wonder is that she was not engaged at Paris long ago. As for Rossi, he satisfactorily demonstrated that his reputation as the most eminent of *buffi* was fully merited.

The production of the *Semiramide* at the Italian Theatre, in Paris, with Cruvelli in the principal part, and Madame Biscottini, a *débutante*, as *Arsace*, was the leading event last week at Paris. The opera was got up chiefly for the purpose of affording Madame Biscottini the opportunity of making her *début* in a part in which her powers are favourably displayed; but though she sang carefully and well, and is evidently a good musician, she did not make so much impression as had been expected from her Italian reputation. Cruvelli, on the contrary, made a great hit. Never, indeed, did this accomplished cantatrice figure to greater advantage. Her singing from one end of the long opera to the other was admirable, and the difficult *morceaux*, especially the cavatina *Bel raggio*, and the grand finale, were executed in a way which it would not be easy to surpass. In acting and bearing too she was superb; in short, she excited her very critical and somewhat cold auditory to a pitch of enthusiasm rarely witnessed within the Italian walls. Beletti was *Assur*, and he too acquitted himself most creditably. By the way, his admirers complain that he does not take sufficient care of his voice. Calzolari was to have been *Idreno*, but being laid up with influenza, a M. Guinault, a *débutant*, took his part at a short notice, and did all that could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. The orchestra and the choruses were less faulty than usual. On the whole, the first performance of Rossini's great work obtained more success than any other piece of the season, and frequent repetitions of it will

afford pleasure to the public. This, added to the novelties in preparation, and to the forthcoming *débuts* of performers of mark and likelihood, will probably enable the manager, M. Costi, to bring his campaign to a successful conclusion, and perhaps redeem the losses he sustained at the commencement.

We mentioned last week that the Czar and the Imperial family are remarkably generous to the eminent musical performers who visit St. Petersburg. In the Italian *troupe* it appears that Mlle. Lablache has already received a diamond brooch worth 120*l.*; Lablache himself, a ring worth 80*l.*; Mario, a ring worth 80*l.*; Mlle. de Meric, a brooch of 60*l.*; and Tagliafico, a ring of 30*l.* And not only are presents more freely distributed in Russia than elsewhere, but the recipients enjoy two advantages which we believe no other court allows—first, that of knowing that the gifts are really of the intrinsic value they appear, or are represented to be; and, secondly, that of being able, without any impropriety, to turn them into money—his Majesty having instituted in his household an officer whose special duty it is to buy back, at the full price, all the presents he offers. Thus in Russia there are certain rings, brooches, bracelets, and snuff-boxes which have been given away times without number.

By a letter from St. Petersburg we learn that Meyerbeer's *Prophet* was produced in the Imperial Theatre of that city on the 5th. We stated in our last that the great work was to have its title changed; but not content with this the Russian censors have, it seems, carefully cut out not only all the *morceaux*, but all the scenes which could by any possibility be supposed likely to have a bad effect on the minds of the Czar's subjects. The scenes in the first act, in which the Anabaptists excite the people to sack the castle of Oberthal, and all those in which the prophet figures in his religious character, were amongst the sacrificed portions. Although these expurgations destroy the *ensemble* of the music, and render the plot almost incomprehensible, the reception of the opera was every whit as enthusiastic as at Paris or Berlin. Madame Viardot of course supported her old character of *Fides*, and Mario was the prophet-king.

La Scala, at Milan, was opened on the 7th, for the first time since the recent insurrection. But scarcely anybody was present, and the performance was naturally gloomy in the extreme. Verdi's *Rigoletto* was the opera performed. The new opera, by the same composer, which we announced some weeks back to be in preparation at the Fenice at Venice, was produced on the 6th; but, strange to say, it failed—more, however, from the incompetency of the singers and the wretched character of the libretto (which is a sort of paraphrase of the notorious *Dame aux Camélias* of the Vaudeville Théâtre at Paris), than from the fault of the composer. Still, on the whole, his *La Traviata* is not equal to some of his other operas, though parts of it are very highly spoken of indeed by the local critics. The disappointed composer has himself addressed a letter to a musical journal in Milan on the subject, which is remarkable for more modesty than musical people are generally considered capable of displaying:—"Yesterday my *Traviata* made a complete *fiasco*. Whose fault was this? Mine or the singers? I don't know, but time will decide. Let us talk about something else."

A grand concert-room is to be built at the Hague, and the municipality calls on foreign architects to send in designs for it, promising prizes of 600 florins, and 200 florins to the two best. At Amsterdam a new ballet by Bartholomén, called *Ines de Castro*, has been received with favour.

At Nice a creditable Italian *troupe* is performing with fair success; and at Rio Janeiro the Italians have been obliged to close their doors, owing to the yellow fever having made sad havoc amongst them.

At La Scala, at Milan, a new opera by Pacini, called *Le Cid*, was brought out some days ago, but probably failed. No attempt was made to repeat it.

M. Goldschmidt, Jenny Lind's husband; has been giving concerts at Berlin with success. Teresa

Milanollo has left that city for Vienna *via* Leipzig, Dresden, and Prague.

THE DRAMA.

The week before Easter is always one of dramatic promise, not performance, and the note of preparation sounds this year louder than usual. Mr. Buckstone inaugurates his management of the HAY-MARKET with *The Rivals*, introducing some new names to our notice, but not strongly cast as regards old ones. The chief novelty of the evening will, however, be an extravaganza by Mr. Planché, called *Mr. Buckstone's Ascent of Mount Parnassus*, which appears, as far as we can judge from the bills, to be a parody upon a popular ascent of another mountain. Miss Helen Faucit will appear towards the close of next month in a new play by Mr. Browning. At the ADELPHI the performances commence with a *pièce de circonstance*, *Webster at Home*, apparently contrived to exhibit the strong accessions to the already powerful company at this theatre. The OLYMPIC, PRINCESS'S, and LYCEUM pieces we have already alluded to; the name of the last is not yet announced. Concerts have been given this week at Sadler's Wells, the Olympic, and the Surrey. At the Adelphi we have had Mr. Adams's orrery, and at Drury-lane a not very successful conjuror. At the ST. JAMES'S Mlle. Luther and M. Ravel have concluded a successful engagement, and the performances recommence on Monday week—Easter week being occupied by the justly celebrated M. Houdin. From our Dresden correspondent we learn that Emil Devrient is expected to be in London in June and July, so that another season of German performances may be looked for.

Fortune seems to be favouring the 'common-sense' poetical gentlemen in France. The success of a grand five-act comedy by Ponsard, the chief of the school, had to be announced last week: and this week we have to record the success of a three-act comedy by Ponsard's lieutenant—M. Emile Augier. The new piece is called *Philiberte*, and it has been brought out at the Gymnase theatre. *Philiberte* is a young girl, who is disliked and neglected by her mother and family, and is constantly subjected to humiliations and insults because they suppose, and she *naïvely* believes, that she is both ugly and stupid: whereas it turns out that she is neither, and she succeeds in inspiring a worthy young man with a strong passion for her—which passion, after the usual number of *contretemps*, leads to honourable wedlock. Slight though the plot be, it is very neatly evolved; the characters are ably sketched—that of *Philiberte* in particular may claim the rare merit on the French stage of being not only original, but charmingly pure and simple; whilst as to the versification, it is not without eloquence, though, as becomes the author, confined strictly within the limits of 'common sense.' Madame Rose Cheri performed *Philiberte*, and as the character is admirably adapted to her peculiar style, she was very successful: indeed, in less able hands the comedy might have been received less favourably. Strange to say, the piece, like that of Ponsard, was refused by the Théâtre Français. The rejection of two such pieces, by two such men, followed in each case by striking success, says little in favour of the taste and intelligence of the present management of that great house.

The only other novelties at Paris are a little one-act piece, called *Sourcil de royage*, at the Théâtre Français, and a three-act vaudeville, entitled *Un notaire à marier*, at the Variétés. The former, by Amedée Achard, a *feuilletoniste* of some small note, is sparkling enough in style, but anything but moral in incident. It is supported by Provost and Mlle. Fix, both of whom display considerable talent. The vaudeville turns on the tribulations into which a notary falls in seeking for a married wife, in order out of her fortune to pay a pressing debt. It is by M. Labiche, and is well acted by Numa, Leclerc, Perey, and others of the pleasant *troupe* of the Variétés; but it is a

picture of Parisian society which would shock rather than amuse an English spectator.

On dit that bull-fights are to be tolerated at Paris as a compliment to the Iberian Empress!

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dresden, March 19th.

I HAVE mentioned in a previous letter, I think, that there is attached to the Gallery here a collection of pictures of greater or less value, which have been purchased from time to time as opportunity offered, and which are by degrees examined, and, if deemed worthy, cleaned, restored, and placed in the Gallery; two or three such were added in the course of last year, and amongst those now preparing I remarked a Brughel of rare beauty and finish. Herr Lessing, the restorer, who is himself an artist of considerable merit, is now employed upon one of the most interesting works of art I have seen for a long time. It belongs to the collection of the Duke of Gotha, and has been sent here for restoration. It is in the form of a folding screen, and contains seventy-six compartments of wood, each compartment painted on both sides, making altogether 152 pictures. The subjects are taken exclusively from the New Testament, and are minutely illustrative of the life and teachings of Christ; they are full of life and vigour; the figures short in stature, and for the most part stiff in their attitudes, and the subjects treated in the quaint and literal style of the Swiss school of the sixteenth century. For example, the illustration of the texts, "Ye are the light of the world," and "If the salt has lost its savour," are given with a truly absurd adherence to the letter of the words;—in the one case a monster altar candlestick, with a proportionate wax light, is erected in the midst of an extensive tract of hill and valley, whilst in the other an open salt-box, such as one sees in English country kitchens at the present day, occupies nearly a quarter of the entire picture. The beam of which one is warned in one's own eye, protrudes from the eye, like a huge mass of timber, all across the picture; and the "herd of swine violently rushing down the steep place," are pursued by a host of little demons which are flying in rapid succession from the mouth of the man who is being cured. The whole series is evidently the work of one artist, probably by one of the scholars of Holbein, but by which has not yet been accurately ascertained, although by many attributed to Meyer. I hear two more pictures of a larger size, but part of the same series, have been discovered at Gotha, and will be forwarded in a few days to Dresden, and when the cleaning is completed the whole work will be exhibited publicly. The screen itself is in either twelve or fourteen folds, but as the framework is made of wood certainly not more than sixty or seventy years old, and the pictures are not inserted in their right order, I am inclined to think that the idea of using them as materials for a bed screen was an after-thought, and that they were most probably originally intended for the screen of an altar or choir.

Professor Rietschel has forwarded his model of the Goethe-Schiller monument to Munich, for the inspection of the King of Bavaria, who contributes six or seven thousand florins towards the expense of the work, on condition that the costume of the age in which the poets lived should be adopted. Rietschel himself is very busy working at some bas-reliefs for the new picture gallery, which it is confidently expected will be finished next year. Several casts from Rietschel's works have been purchased for the Glass Palace at Sydenham. Professor Hübner has finished his cartoons for the stained glass window at Cracow, and is now occupied on some portraits. Auerbach has left Dresden for Mannheim and the Black Forest, where he hopes to glean fresh matter for his Village Tales. Madame Goldschmidt has taken a country house a few miles from Dresden for the summer months. I see an extract in one of your late numbers from a Berlin newspaper, asserting that "since her marriage Jenny Lind has ceased to be profuse in her charities," a statement which I must beg to contra-

dict; I have every reason to know that she has in no degree relaxed in her charities, and that her benevolence to the poor and needy is as widely extended as ever.

In the Kunstverein exhibition we have had lately one or two interesting pictures, one by Professor Barry, of *The Miracle of Christ Healing the Sick Man at the Pool of Bethesda*,—the figure of Christ is full of dignity, and the colouring harmonious; this picture was ordered by the Saxon Art Union for an hospital at Zwickau, and paid for from a fund for the purpose of purchasing pictures for public institutions in Saxony, created by the appropriation of a portion of the annual subscriptions to that purpose. A small landscape by Professor Dahl, and a view of Trieste by Kummer, both excellent pictures, have also been on exhibition.

The collection of works of art about to be sold by auction in Leipzig, as mentioned in my last letter, is the property of Professor Ackermann, a member of many literary and artistic societies, and well known for the refinement of his taste and the soundness of his critical judgment. This collection has been made at a considerable expense of time, trouble, and money,—there are altogether nearly two thousand lots, which include a small collection of valuable books on art, an ancient bronze statue found about twenty years ago in Pompeii, upwards of a hundred woodcuts, by Albert Dürer, of great beauty and in perfect preservation, a number of Vandykes, Rembrandts, and Martin Schongauers. The auction will take place at Leipzig, on the 29th of March and following days, and will be, I hear, well attended by collectors or their agents from all parts of Germany, France, and Belgium.

The fourth number of 'Grimm's German Dictionary,' which has been published within the last few days, does not as yet bring us to the completion of the letter A, although 960 closely-printed columns have been already printed. It is now nearly a year since the first number appeared, and if the whole alphabet is to be brought out in the same Panizzi-like style, we may expect the completion of the *Grimmische Wörterbuch* and the catalogue of the British Museum about the same time. A life of Ira Aldridge, the negro actor, with a portrait, has just been published at Berlin; and from the same place I hear that Radowitz is very busily engaged on a new work,—a continuation of his political opinions. We have had an almost uninterrupted fall of snow for the last twelve hours, and the English mails are considerably behind their time; fears are entertained that the poor people in the Erzgebirgen and Saxon Switzerland will be serious sufferers from this second winter. Emil Devrient and Frau Bayer Burck have both left Dresden, the former for a six months' leave of absence, the latter for a shorter period. Emil Devrient will be in London in June and July, to renew his engagement with Mr. Mitchell.

VARIETIES.

Handwriting.—"Allow me to place a few words in the next number of your highly valuable journal on the art of judging the characters of men by their handwriting. Some people will hold forth that this is absurdity and folly; but is there not some truth in it? Assuredly nature would prompt every individual to have a distinct sort of writing, as she has given a countenance, a voice, a manner. The flexibility of the muscles differs with every individual, and the handwriting will follow the direction of the thoughts, the emotions, and the habit of the writers. The phlegmatic will portray his words, while the wilful taste of the volatile will scarcely sketch them; the slovenly will blot, and efface, and scrawl, while the neat and orderly-minded will view themselves in the paper before their eyes. The merchant's clerk will not write like the lawyer or the poet. Even nations are distinguished by their writing: the vivacity and variability of the Frenchman, and the delicacy and suppleness of the Italian, are perceptibly distinct from the slowness and length of the pen discoverable in the phlegmatic style of the German, Dane, and Swede. When we are in grief we do

not write as when we are in joy. The elegant and correct mind, which has acquired the fortunate habit of fixity of attention, will write without an erasure on the page, as Fenelon, Gray, and Gibbon; while we find in Pope's manuscripts the perpetual struggles of correction, and the eager and rapid interlineations struck off in heat. The vital principle, then, must be true, that the handwriting bears an analogy to the character, as all voluntary actions are characteristics of the individual; but many causes operate to counteract or obstruct this result. I am personally acquainted with the handwriting of five of our greatest poets. The first in early life acquired among Scottish advocates a handwriting which cannot be distinguished from his ordinary brothers; the second, educated at a public school where writing is shamefully neglected, composed his sublime and sportive verses in a school-boy's scrawl, as if he had never finished his task with the writing-master; the third writes his highly-wrought poetry in the common hand of a merchant's clerk, from early commercial associations; the fourth has all the finished neatness which polish his verses; the fifth is a specimen of a full mind, not in the habit of correction or alteration, so that he appears to print down his thoughts without a single erasure. The handwriting of the first and third, not indicative of their character, we have accounted for; the others are specimens of their character. I will now only give one more example to prove the argument. Our Henry VIII. wrote a strong hand, as if he had seldom a good pen; the vehemence of his character conveyed itself into his writing—bold, hasty, and commanding. I have no doubt the assessor of the Pope's supremacy and its triumphant destroyer split many a good quill.

"J. J. E. R."

American Periodicals.—Mr. Willis, in some of his numerous sparkling newspaper comments on the fashions of the day, says the capricious taste of the public renders it occasionally uncertain in what way best to provide for its reading appetite or necessities; whether the literary nostrum is to be administered as pill, potion, or lotion; as magazine, newspaper, or review; daily, weekly, or monthly. Just now the fashionable doctors are the monthly ones, with large allopathic doses at homoeopathic prices. Harpers' Magazine sends a warehouse of paper and print every month to one hundred and ten thousand purchasers; Putnam in three months has attained a circulation of thirty thousand; Graham comes on, like President Pierce, "not to be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion." Is this astounding success to be attributed solely to the merits of these publications, or is it a lucky gale filling the booksellers' sails for a short season? Then there is the *Kaickerbocker*. Show us anything more delicate, choicely expressed, or more original and American in any of its contemporaries than Mr. Shelton's disquisition on Crows and such fellows, in the last number. Why, don't Old Knick exhaust paper-mills and turn printing-offices crazy with editions by the hundred thousand? Is it genuine merit, or is it 'Uncle Tomitude' which governs the world?—*New York Literary World*.

Architectural Institute of Scotland.—The eighth meeting for the session of this Institute was held on Thursday, 17th, in their Hall, George-street. Mr. A. Thomson, of Banchoy, sent a communication on the materials used in building by the ancient Romans, with illustrative specimens. The rest of the evening was occupied in the consideration of Bailie Boyd's model of the old town, which was exhibited, and in conversation on the plan suggested by that gentleman for widening the north bridge, and forming a new road to the railway station.—*The Builder*.

The Committee of the National Gallery consists of seventeen members: Colonel Mure, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Charteris, Mr. Stirling, Mr. R. Currie, Mr. Milnes, Mr. Marshall, Lord Seymour, Mr. Vernon, Lord Brooke, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. Ewart, Mr. B. Wall, Sir W. Molesworth, Mr. Hardinge, Lord Graham, and Mr. Hamilton.

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LOANS.—Loans are advanced on Policies which have been in existence five years and upwards, to the extent of nine-tenths of their value.

BONUSES.—FIVE Bonuses have been declared; at the last in January, 1852, the sum of **£131,125** was added to the Policies, producing a Bonus varying with the different ages from 24 to 35 per cent. on the Premiums paid during the five years, or from **£5 to £12 10s. per cent.** on the Sum Assured.

The Bonuses applied in reduction of Premium on many of the Policies which have participated in three or more divisions, have been sufficient not only to distinguish the whole of the Premiums, but also to add a Bonus to the sum assured, which will be further augmented at every succeeding division.

The following are examples:—

Sums Assured.	No. of Bonuses.	Original Premium.	Bonus already added to Sums assured, and no more premiums to pay.
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1000	5	82 11 10	Extinguished. 337 11 0
1000	4	82 0 0	ditto. 114 0 0
1000	3	125 0 0	ditto. 193 5 0
1000	3	100 5 0	ditto. 106 10 0

PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.—Policies participate in the Profits in proportion to the number and amount of the Premiums paid between every division, so that if only one year's Premium be received prior to the Books being closed for any division, the Policy on which it was paid will obtain its due share. The books close for the next Division on 30th June, 1856, therefore those who effect Policies before the 30th June next, will be entitled to one year's additional share of Profits over later assurance.

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Sum Assured.	Time Assured.	Sum added to Policy in 1841.	Sum added to Policy in 1845.	Sum payable at Death.
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5000	13 yrs. 10 mo.	683 6 8	787 10 0	6470 16 8
*1000	7 years.	157 10 0	117 10 0	117 10 0
500	1 year.	—	11 5 0	11 5 0

* Example.—At the commencement of the year 1841 a person aged 30, took out a policy for £1000, the annual payment for which is £24 1s. 8d.; in 1847 he had paid in premiums £768 11s. 8d.; but the profits being 24 per cent. per annum on the sum insured (which is £22 10s. per annum for each £1000) he had £157 10s. added to the policy, almost as much as the premiums paid.

The premiums, nevertheless, are on the most moderate scale, and only one-half need be paid for the first five years when the insurance is for life. Every information will be afforded on application to the Resident Director.

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Half Premium First Seven Years.

Whole Premium Remainder of Life.

Age.

Annual Premium.

Quarterly Premium.

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(MUTUAL.)

Extract from Table with Participation in Profits, after Seven Yearly Payments.

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Half-Yearly Premium.

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